Merriam-Webster®

LEARNING THE WORLD'S LANGUAGES

Merriam-Webster's Advanced LEARNER'S ENGLISH DICTIONARY

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2021 with funding from
Kahle/Austin Foundation

https://archive.org/details/merriamwebstersa0000unse

AD
HIGH SCHOOL
LIBRARY
ONE STEVENSON DRIVE
LINCOLNSHIRE, IL 60069

Merriam-Webster's Advanced LEARNER'S English Dictionary

ADLAI E. STEVENSON HIGH SCHOOL
THE LIBRARY
ONE STEVENSON DRIVE
LINCOLNSHIRE, IL 60069

LINCOLNSHIRE, IL 60069
ONE STEVENSON DRIVE
THE LIBRARY
ADLAI E. STEVENSON HIGH SCHOOL

423.1
MER
C.1

Merriam-Webster's Advanced LEARNER'S English Dictionary

Merriam-Webster, Incorporated
Springfield, Massachusetts, U.S.A.

ADLAI E. STEVENSON HIGH SCHOOL
THE LIBRARY
ONE STEVENSON DRIVE
LINCOLNSHIRE, IL 60069



A GENUINE MERRIAM-WEBSTER

The name *Webster* alone is no guarantee of excellence. It is used by a number of publishers and may serve mainly to mislead an unwary buyer.

Merriam-Webster™ is the name you should look for when you consider the purchase of dictionaries or other fine reference books. It carries the reputation of a company that has been publishing since 1831 and is your assurance of quality and authority.

Copyright © 2008 by Merriam-Webster, Incorporated

Illustration for the entry comic strip © Paws Inc. All rights reserved.

Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data

Merriam-Webster's advanced learner's English dictionary.

p. cm.

ISBN 978-0-87779-551-3 (alk. paper)—ISBN 978-0-87779-550-6 (pbk. : alk. paper)

1. English language—Textbooks for foreign speakers. 2. English language—Dictionaries. 3. English language—Textbooks for foreign speakers. I. Title: Advanced learner's English dictionary.

PE1628.M354 2008

423'.1—dc22 2008028372

All rights reserved. No part of this book covered by the copyrights hereon may be reproduced or copied in any form or by any means—graphic, electronic, or mechanical, including photocopying, taping, or information storage and retrieval systems—without written permission of the publisher.

Made in the United States of America

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 CDS:QWV 12 11 10 09 08

Contents

Preface 7a

Using the Dictionary 10a

Labels Used in This Dictionary 21a

Pronunciation Symbols 22a

A Dictionary of the English Language 1

Color Art (following page 1002)

Geographical Names 1910

English Grammar Review 1927

- The Parts of Speech 1927 • The English Verb System 1936 • Phrases, Clauses, and Sentences 1944 • Other Grammar Topics 1948

Irregular Verbs 1953

Contractions 1957

Prefixes and Suffixes 1958

English Word Roots 1960

Words That Are Often Confused 1962

Spelling Rules 1965

The Spelling of Different Sounds in English 1968

A Handbook of Style 1970

- Punctuation 1970 • Compounds 1973
- Capitals and Italics 1974 • Abbreviations 1975
- Numbers 1975

Common First Names 1977

Money 1979

Numbers 1980

Weights and Measures 1982

Dates 1984

Holidays 1985

Envelope Addresses 1986

E-Mail, Letters, Memos, and Résumés 1989

Pronunciation Symbols 1994

Contents

Preface vii

Acknowledgments ix

1 Using the Dictionary 1

2 Pronunciation Symbols 5

3 E-Mail, Letters, Memos, and Resumes 9

Envelope Addresses 9

Holidays 10

Days 10

Weights and Measures 11

Money 12

Common First Names 13

• Answers 15 • Capitals and Italics 15 • Abbreviations 15 • Punctuation 16 • Compounds 17

A Handbook of Style 18

Troublesome Pairs of Different Words in English 18

Spelling Rules 20

Words That Are Often Confused 21

English Word Roots 23

Prefixes and Suffixes 24

Contractions 25

Irregular Verbs 26

• Answers 28 • Other Commonly Topics 28

System 1636 • Phrases, Clauses, and Sentences

• The Parts of Speech 1637 • The English Verb

English Grammar Review 1657

Geographical Names 1010

Color Art (follows page 1008)

A Dictionary of the English Language 1

Pronunciation Symbols 3

Listed in This Dictionary 3

Using the Dictionary

COLLEGE

Preface

Merriam-Webster's Advanced Learner's English Dictionary is not only an entirely new dictionary created by the editorial staff of America's oldest dictionary publisher; it also marks the beginning of a new kind of publishing for this company. Over the past 160 years, Merriam-Webster has produced hundreds of dictionaries and other reference books, and many of those books have been useful to learners of English as a second or foreign language, but this dictionary is the first one that we have produced specifically to meet the needs of those learners. The creation of this dictionary reflects the reality that English has become an international language, and that American English, in particular, is now being used and studied every day by millions of people around the world. We believe that we have a unique opportunity to help students of English—in the U.S. and elsewhere—to understand our language and to use it more clearly and effectively.

This dictionary provides coverage of both American and British English. Its coverage of British English is current and comprehensive. Its coverage of American English is, we believe, unparalleled. The thousands of entries, senses, phrases, forms, and examples that are labeled *US* in this dictionary will provide learners with a clearer and more precise description of idiomatic American usage than has ever before been available in a dictionary of this kind.

The approximately 100,000 entries in this dictionary include a broad selection of words from all major areas of interest, including popular culture, business, sports, science, and technology, among others. Our main focus in choosing entries has been to include the language that people are most likely to need and encounter in their daily lives. The evidence used to make decisions about which words and senses to include was drawn, first of all, from our continually growing database of citation text, now numbering more than 100 million words. That evidence was augmented in essential ways by the resources that are available to us over the Internet, and in particular by the enormous databases of Lexis-Nexis, which provided editors with ready access to vast amounts of material from both American and British sources. Not so long ago dictionary editors had to rely entirely on evidence that had been painstakingly collected over a period of years by a program of reading. That program continues at Merriam-Webster, providing the basis of our citation database, and we continue to find great value in the traditional methods of evidence-gathering, but we also have fully embraced the power of the electronic tools that have become available in recent decades. The use of computers now makes it possible for dictionary editors to examine and describe language at a level of detail that was never before imaginable.

The definitions in this dictionary are written in simple language. In many cases, a single use of a word will be given more than one definition. Very often a word will be defined by a quite simple definition, followed by a definition that is perhaps somewhat less simple or that shows how the defined word is related to another word. For example, the verb *pioneer* is defined both as "to help create or develop (new ideas, methods, etc.)" and as "to be a pioneer in the development of (something)." The first definition can certainly stand alone, but the second definition enhances it by underscoring the close connection between the verb *pioneer* and the noun *pioneer*—a connection that native speakers are unconsciously aware of, but that learners may not sense so strongly. The inclusion of multiple definitions thus helps learners both to expand their vocabularies and to gain a fuller picture of a word's meaning by approaching it from a slightly different direction. Notes of various kinds are also used abundantly throughout the dictionary to clarify and emphasize aspects of usage that cannot be easily captured or expressed in a definition.

True fluency in any language, of course, is not acquired by memorizing dictionary definitions, but by hearing and seeing how words are used in combination with each other to express meaning. In writing this book we have devoted a great deal of care and attention to creating simple and accurate definitions, but our feeling throughout has been that the real heart of the dictionary is its examples. We know from experience that dictionary users, whether native speakers or learners, want more examples. They want examples for common words, and they want examples for difficult words. Although not every entry in this dictionary includes an example—there is usually very little value in providing an example for, say, a noun like *microchip* or *monoplane*—the great majority of the entries do, and a large percentage of them include more than one. There are more than 160,000 usage examples in this dictionary. A few of them are quotations taken from well-known works of American and British literature, but most are made-up examples, based on evidence of real English, that have been carefully written to show words being used in appropriate contexts which accurately reflect their uses in actual speech and writing.

A large number of the examples in this dictio-

nary do not simply illustrate usage, they also explain it and expand upon it in other ways. Many examples include synonymous words or phrases shown within brackets, thus allowing the reader either to learn a new word or to have the connection between the meanings of words reinforced. Examples also often include glosses, so that phrases and compound terms whose meanings are not obvious can be explained clearly and simply. And we have very frequently explained the meaning of entire phrases and sentences by restating them with other, simpler words. Many examples also show how the same word can be used in slightly different ways—or how related words can be used in different ways—to say the same thing. We believe that such examples are of great value to the learner; they are the next best thing to having a native speaker available by your side to help clarify what you are seeing and hearing.

Any comprehensive dictionary contains an enormous amount of information, and dictionary editors have typically been required to use a variety of abbreviations and other shortcuts to fit all that information into the limited space available between the covers of a book. Two of our main goals in creating the entries for this dictionary were to keep the use of such shortcuts to a minimum and to employ conventions that are readily understandable. We set out to create a dictionary that could be easily used without frequent reference to explanatory materials. To achieve that, we have minimized the use of abbreviations and symbols (although we were not able to eliminate them entirely) and we have tried to use labels and notes whose meanings are immediately clear. We have also made every effort to organize entries in a way that allows users to find the information they want quickly. The most obvious convention we have adopted for this purpose is the use of blue text for examples. The blue text not only highlights the examples, it also makes it much easier to identify the other elements of an entry—the definitions, usages notes, and so on—and to navigate through long entries to find the particular information that you need.

It can sometimes be easy to forget that a large dictionary like this one has to be written word by word and line by line. Each definition, each example, each note that appears in this dictionary is the product of careful and strenuous thought by at least one person, and often by many people, since the nature of the writing and editing process is such that multiple stages of review are required before the work is truly finished. The names of the many people who worked on this book are listed in the following paragraphs.

The length of this project has meant that some of the people who were with us when it began had moved on to other parts of their lives by the time it ended. The Merriam-Webster editors credited here include both current and former staff members. Former Director of Defining E. Ward Gilman and former Editor in Chief Frederick C. Mish, both now retired, provided helpful suggestions when the project was in its initial planning stages, as did consultant Robert Ilson. President and Publisher John M. Morse was also involved in the initial planning of the project and provided support and encouragement throughout it.

The editors who had the first crack at creating entries included, in no particular order, Karen L. Wilkinson, Susan L. Brady, Thomas F. Pitoniak, Kathleen M. Doherty, Emily A. Brewster, G. James Kossuth, Emily B. Arsenault, Penny L. Couillard-Dix, Emily A. Vezina, Benjamin T. Korzec, Ilya A. Davidovich, Judy Yeh, Rose Martino Bigelow, Kory L. Stamper, Peter A. Sokolowski, Neil S. Serven, Deanna Stathis, Anne Eason, Joanne M. Despres, Rebecca Bryer-Charette, and myself. Dr. Ilson undertook a complete review of the work that was done at that early stage, and he made many valuable corrections and additions. He was particularly helpful in providing good examples and in augmenting our coverage of British English by identifying distinctions (often very subtle ones) between American and British usage.

The pronunciations throughout the dictionary were provided by Joshua S. Guenter. The essential task of checking and re-checking cross-references was handled by Maria Sansalone, Donna L. Rickerby, and Adrienne M. Scholz. The work of copyediting the entries that had been created by the definers was done by editors Wilkinson, Brady, Brewster, Couillard-Dix, Korzec, Yeh, Stamper, Sokolowski, Serven, Eason, Despres, Bryer-Charette, and me. The complexity of this project was such that an additional reviewing stage was added following copyediting. That work was done by editors Bryer-Charette, Korzec, Brewster, Stamper, Brady, Couillard-Dix, Wilkinson, and Madeline L. Novak. The responsibility for final review of the manuscript fell to me.

The proofreading of the galleys and page proofs was done by many of the editors mentioned above and by Anne P. Bello and Paul S. Wood. The primary proofreader for the in-house keying of revisions was Kathleen M. Doherty. Specialized editing assistance was provided by editors Wood and Doherty. Most of the illustrations that appear throughout were newly created for this book. The new black-and-white illustrations were drawn by Tim Phelps of Johns Hopkins Univ., and the color illustrations were researched and drawn by Merriam-Webster editor Diane Caswell Christian. Mark A. Stevens oversaw the creation of the new illustrations and planned the black-and-white illustrations along with Lynn Stowe Tomb, who also coordinated work with Mr. Phelps and converted the drawings to electronic form for typesetting. Freelancer Loree Hany and editors Jennifer N. Cislo and Joan I. Narmontas assisted in art research. The selection of the 3,000 entry words that are highlighted as being most important for learners to know was based in large part on initial recommendations provided by James G. Lowe and Madeline L. Novak. Additional research was carried out and final selections were made by John M. Morse. The Geographical Names section was prepared by Daniel J. Hopkins. The other back matter sections were prepared by Mark A. Stevens, C. Roger Davis, and outside contributor Orin Hargraves. Robert D. Copeland arranged for

Content Data Solutions, Inc., to convert the dictionary data files to a suitable format before typesetting them. The converted files were checked by Donna L. Rickerby. Daniel B. Brandon keyed revisions into the converted data files and contributed other technical help. Thomas F. Pitoniak directed the book through its typesetting stages. Project coordination and scheduling were handled by Madeline L. Novak, who was also chiefly responsible for the book's typography and page design.

Our notions about what this book could and should be continued to develop as we progressed through the different stages of editing, and many of the people named above made useful suggestions that led to changes, both minor and major, in the book's style and content. Further changes were implemented thanks to comments and suggestions from a group of consultants who reviewed a selection of entries at a fairly late stage in the project. We gratefully acknowledge the important contributions of those consultants, whose names are listed below.

We want first of all to express our thanks to Jerome C. Su, President of the Taiwan Association of Translation and Interpretation and Chair of Bookman Books, Taipei, Taiwan, for all of his advice and good suggestions at the reviewing stage and throughout the project. Our other consultants, all of whom provided us with carefully considered and valuable feedback, were Virginia G. Allen, author and educator, Ohio State Univ.; James H. Miller, ESL teacher; Elizabeth Niergarth, ESL instructor/consultant, Harvard Univ.; Susan Despres Prior, ESL teacher; Caroline Wilcox Reul, lexicographer and ESL teacher; Maggie Sokolik, Director, Technical Communication Program, College of Engineering, Univ. of California, Berkeley; Yukio Takahashi, English teacher, Sendai Shirayuri Gakuen High School, Sendai, Japan; Gregory Trzebiatowski, Headmaster, Thomas Jefferson School, Concepción, Chile (and his students Felipe Opazo, Paula Reyes, and Carolina Sanhueza); and Rob Waring, author and educator, Notre Dame Seishin Univ., Okayama, Japan.

All of the editors who worked on this book have of course had the experience of studying a foreign language, with varying degrees of success. This project has given us renewed opportunities to understand what it is like to approach English—with all its complexities, subtleties, and apparent inconsistencies—as a learner rather than as a native speaker, and that experience has reminded us again of just how challenging the task of learning a new language truly is. We hope and believe that *Merriam-Webster's Advanced Learner's English Dictionary* is a resource that will make that task easier for students of English.

Stephen J. Perrault
Editor

Using the Dictionary

Entries

The entries in the dictionary are arranged in alphabetical order according to their **headwords**.

Headwords are the boldface words at the beginning of an entry.

bane /ˈbeɪn/ *noun* [*singular*] : a cause of trouble, annoyance, or unhappiness — usually used in the phrase ***the bane of*** ▪ The ugly school uniforms were *the bane of* the students' lives. ▪ She was *the bane of* my existence. [=she made my life very unhappy, difficult, etc.]

Dots within headwords show the places where you can break a word and add a hyphen if all of it will not fit at the end of a line of print or writing.

gar·gan·tuan /gɑəˈgæntʃəwən/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : very large in size or amount : GIGANTIC ▪ a creature of *gargantuan* proportions ▪ a *gargantuan* appetite

A blue underline highlights the headwords of **3,000 basic English words** selected by Merriam-Webster editors as being the most important for learners to know.

achieve /əˈtʃi:v/ *verb* **achieves**; **achieved**; **achiev·ing**
1 [+ *obj*] : to get or reach (something) by working hard ▪ This year, our company was able to *achieve* [=*accomplish*, *attain*] all of its production goals. ▪ He worked hard and *achieved* success. [=became successful]

You will sometimes find two or more headwords that are spelled exactly alike and that have small numbers attached to them. These entries are called **homographs**.

Homographs often are related words that have different parts of speech. For example, the noun *lecture* and the verb *lecture* are entered in this dictionary as separate homographs.

[1]lec·ture /ˈlɛktʃɚ/ *noun, pl* **-tures** [*count*]
1 : a talk or speech given to a group of people to teach them about a particular subject ▪ a *lecture* about/on politics ▪ She's planning to give/deliver a series of *lectures* on modern art. ▪ Several hundred people are expected to attend the *lecture*.
2 : a talk that criticizes someone's behavior in an angry or serious way ▪ I came home late and got a *lecture* from my parents. ▪ I gave her a *lecture* about doing better in school.

[2]lecture *verb* **-tures**; **-tured**; **-tur·ing**
1 [*no obj*] : to give a talk or a series of talks to a group of people to teach them about a particular subject ▪ She *lectures* (to undergraduates) on modern art at the local college. ▪ She *lectures* in art at the local college.
2 [+ *obj*] : to talk to (someone) in an angry or serious way ▪ They *lectured* their children about/on the importance of honesty. ▪ I *lectured* her about doing better in school.

Some homographs are words that are spelled the same way but are not related at all. For example, there are two different nouns in English that are spelled *calf*. Those two nouns are not related to each other and are treated as separate entries in this dictionary.

[1]calf /ˈkæf, *Brit* ˈkɑ:f/ *noun, pl* **calves** /ˈkævz, *Brit* ˈkɑ:vz/ [*count*]
1 : a very young cow
2 : the young of various other large animals (such as the elephant or whale)
– compare [2]CALF

[2]calf *noun, pl* **calves** [*count*] : the muscular back part of the leg below the knee — see picture at HUMAN — compare [1]CALF

Idioms and **phrasal verbs** are shown in alphabetical order at the end of the entry that they relate to.

pave /ˈpeɪv/ *verb* **paves**; **paved**; **pav·ing** [+ *obj*] : to cover (something) with a material (such as stone, tar, or concrete) that forms a hard, level surface for walking, driving, etc. ▪ The crew was *paving* the road. ▪ Some of the roads were *paved* over. ▪ The driveway is *paved* with concrete. ▪ a *paved* highway/road ▪ It was said that this country was so rich, the streets were ***paved with/in gold***.

pave over [*phrasal verb*] ***pave over (something) or pave (something) over*** *disapproving* : to cover (an area) with roads, parking lots, buildings, etc. ▪ All this beautiful farmland will be *paved over*.

pave the way for (something or someone) : to make it easier for something to happen or for someone to do something ▪ The discovery *paves the way for* the development of effective new treatments.

Some words are shown without definitions at the very end of an entry. The meaning of these words can be understood when you know the meaning of the main entry word that they are related to. For example, when a word ends in a suffix like *-ly* or *-ness*, you can understand the word's meaning by combining the meaning of the base word (the main entry) and the meaning of the suffix.

con·cise /kənˈsaɪs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : using few words : not including extra or unnecessary information ▪ a clear and *concise* account of the accident ▪ a *concise* summary ▪ a *concise* definition
– **con·cise·ly** *adv* – **con·cise·ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

Pronunciations

The **pronunciations** in this dictionary are written using the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA). The symbols used are listed in a chart on page 22a.

Pronunciations are shown between a pair of slashes / / following the entry word. Only one pronunciation is given for most words. This is the most commonly used pronunciation.

fal·la·cious /fəˈleɪʃəs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *formal* : containing a mistake : not true or accurate ▪ a *fallacious* [=*false*] set of assumptions ▪ *fallacious* [=*misleading*] arguments
– **fal·la·cious·ly** *adv* – **fal·la·cious·ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

Additional pronunciations are shown when the word can be pronounced in different ways that are equally common.

apri·cot /ˈæprəˌkɑːt, ˈeɪprəˌkɑːt/ *noun, pl* **-cots** [*count*] : a small orange-colored fruit that is related to the peach and plum — see color picture on page C5

Pronunciations are not shown at every entry. If homographs have the same pronunciation, the pronunciation is written only at the first homograph (as the entries above for *calf* show). If the homographs are pronounced differently, a pronunciation is written at each homograph.

[1]pres·ent /ˈprɛzn̩t/ *noun, pl* **-ents** [*count*] : something that you give to someone especially as a way of showing affection or thanks : GIFT ▪ a birthday/Christmas/anniversary/wedding *present* ▪ Here's a *present* for you from John. ▪ I gave/got her a book as a *present*. ▪ Did you wrap the *presents*? — compare [4]PRESENT

[2]pre·sent /prɪˈzɛnt/ *verb* **-sents**; **-sent·ed**; **-sent·ing**
1 [+ *obj*] : to give something to someone in a formal way or in a ceremony ▪ He *presented* the queen with a diamond necklace. ▪ He was *presented* with a medal at the ceremony. ▪ She *presented* a check for $5,000 to the charity.

Pronunciations are not usually shown for entries like *gag order* that are compounds of two or more words which have their own entries.

gag order *noun, pl* ~ **-ders** [*count*] *chiefly US, law* : an order by a judge or court saying that the people involved in a legal case cannot talk about the case or anything related to it in public ▪ The judge has issued a *gag order*. — called also (*Brit*) *gagging order*

Pronunciations are not shown for most undefined words that end in a common suffix, such as *-ly* or *-ness*. Pronunciations are also not shown for the plurals of nouns, the past tenses of verbs, etc., if they are formed in a regular way.

bar·ba·rous /ˈbɑɚbərəs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]
1 : not polite or proper : very rude or offensive ▪ His behavior was *barbarous*. ▪ They used *barbarous* language.
2 : very cruel and violent ▪ It was a *barbarous* [=*barbaric*] crime. ▪ a *barbarous* custom
– **bar·ba·rous·ly** *adv* – **bar·ba·rous·ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

ˈgab /ˈgæb/ *verb* **gabs**; **gabbed**; **gab·bing** [*no obj*] *informal* : to talk a lot in an informal way usually about things that are not important or serious ▪ They stayed up late *gabbing* (away) on the phone. ▪ *gabbing* about the weather
– **gab·ber** *noun, pl* **-bers** [*count*] ▪ talk radio *gabbers*

When only the last part of a pronunciation is shown, the missing part can be found in a full pronunciation shown earlier in that same entry. In this example, only the last syllable is shown for the pronunciation of the plural *formulae*. The pronunciation of the first two syllables of *formulae* is the same as the pronunciation of the first two syllables of the singular *formula*.

for·mu·la /ˈfoɚmjələ/ *noun, pl* **-las** *also* **-lae** /-ˌliː/

Most of the pronunciations in this dictionary should be considered standard American pronunciations, showing how words are typically pronounced in many parts of the United States. For some words, a British pronunciation is also provided.

British pronunciations are shown when the most common British pronunciation is very different from the American pronunciation.

flask /ˈflæsk, *Brit* ˈflɑːsk/ *noun, pl* **flasks** [*count*]
1 : a container that is shaped like a flattened bottle and that is used to carry alcohol ▪ a *flask* of whiskey — called also *hip flask*
2 : a glass bottle used in scientific laboratories
3 *Brit* : THERMOS

Spelling

Some words can be spelled in different ways. These additional spellings are called **variants** and are entered after the main entry words and after either *or* or *also*.

The word ***or*** is used when the variant is as common as the main entry word.

han·kie *or* **han·ky** /ˈhæŋki/ *noun, pl* **-kies** [*count*] *informal* : HANDKERCHIEF

¹sa·vor (*US*) *or Brit* **sa·vour** /ˈseɪvɚ/ *noun, pl* **-vors** *formal*
1 [*count*] : a good taste or smell — usually singular ▪ She enjoys the *savor* of a baking pie. ▪ There was a *savor* to the dish that I couldn't identify. ▪ a *savor* of mint ▪ an earthy *savor*
2 [*noncount*] *literary* : the quality that makes something interesting or enjoyable ▪ Without her love, life has lost its *savor* for me.

The word ***also*** is used when the variant is less common than the main entry word.

Ha·nuk·kah *also* **Cha·nu·kah** /ˈhɑːnəkə/ *noun, pl* **-kahs** [*count, noncount*] : an eight-day Jewish holiday that is celebrated in November or December

A label in parentheses ( ) after a headword tells you where that spelling is used. The example shown here indicates that the spelling *ampule* is used in U.S. English. Notice that the spelling *ampoule* does not have a *US* or *Brit* label. This means that it is common in both U.S. and British English.

am•pule (*US*) *or* **am•poule** /ˈæmˌpju:l/ *noun, pl* **-pules** *or* **-poules** [*count*] : a small glass container used to hold a fluid that is injected into someone through a needle

The word ***chiefly*** is used to tell you that a word or variant is very common in a specified country or region but that it is also sometimes used in other countries or regions. The example shown here indicates that the British spellings *grey* and *greyish* are also sometimes used in U.S. English.

²gray (*US*) *or chiefly Brit* **grey** *noun, pl* **grays**
1 [*count, noncount*] : a color that is between black and white : a color that is like the color of smoke ▪ wearing *gray* ▪ shades of *gray* — see color picture on page C1
2 [*count*] : something (such as an animal) that is gray
– gray•ish (*US*) *or chiefly Brit* **grey•ish** /ˈgreɪɪʃ/ *adj*

Definitions

The definitions in this dictionary are written in simple and clear language. If you are unsure about the meaning of a word that is used in a definition, you can look that word up at its own entry in the dictionary and find its meaning explained there.

Most definitions begin with a boldface colon.

gait /ˈgeɪt/ *noun, pl* **gaits** [*count*] : a particular way of walking ▪ He has an awkward *gait*. ▪ an easy/unsteady *gait*

Some definitions are written as notes that describe how a word or phrase is used. Those definitions begin with a dash.

earliest *noun*
at the earliest — used to indicate the earliest possible time when something will happen or be done ▪ The job will not be finished until next year *at the* (very) *earliest*. [=it will not be finished before next year] — compare LATEST

Some definitions are written as complete sentences and begin with the ✧ symbol.

¹gorge /ˈgoɚʤ/ *noun, pl* **gorg•es** [*count*]
1 : a deep, narrow area between hills or mountains
2 ✧ If ***your gorge rises*** you feel sick, disgusted, or angry. ▪ My *gorge rises* [=I feel very angry] when I think of children living in such bad conditions. ▪ a disgusting odor that ***made my gorge rise*** [=made me feel like vomiting]

Synonyms and Antonyms

Synonyms are words that have the same meaning. A word that is shown in small capital letters in a definition is a synonym of the word that is being defined. The example shown here indicates that the word *seafarer* has the same meaning as *sailor*.

sea•far•er /ˈsi:ˌferɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] *old-fashioned* : someone who works or travels on a boat or ship on the sea : SAILOR

For some words, the only definition shown is a synonym. You can read a full definition by looking at the entry for the synonym.

dust•cart /ˈdʌstˌkɑɚt/ *noun, pl* **-carts** [*count*] *Brit* : GARBAGE TRUCK

The synonyms of an entry are often shown at the end of the entry or sense in a **called also** note.

garage truck *noun, pl* ~ **trucks** [*count*] *US* : a truck used to take away garbage that people put outside their houses, buildings, etc., in bags or cans — called also (*Brit*) *dustcart*; see picture at TRUCK

Synonyms are also frequently shown in square brackets within examples.

ram·bunc·tious /ræmˈbʌŋkʃəs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *US* : uncontrolled in a way that is playful or full of energy ▪ a class full of *rambunctious* [=*boisterous*, (*Brit*) *rumbustious*] children ▪ a *rambunctious* crowd/audience

Antonyms are words that have opposite meanings. When a word has an antonym, it is shown at the end of the entry or sense.

op·ti·mist /ˈɑːptəmɪst/ *noun, pl* **-mists** [*count*] : a person who usually expects good things to happen ▪ You have to be a bit of an *optimist* to start a business. ▪ Somehow he remained an *optimist* despite all that had happened to him. — opposite PESSIMIST

Examples

Examples of how a word is used are provided at most of the entries and are printed in blue.

flustered *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : upset or nervous ▪ She seemed *flustered* when he asked about her past. ▪ Don't do anything to get him *flustered*. ▪ He was too *flustered* to speak.

Some examples have explanations that are given in square brackets.

ga·lore /gəˈloɚ/ *adj, always used after a noun, informal* : in large numbers or amounts ▪ The store promises bargains *galore* [=promises that there will be many bargains] during its weekend sale.

Some examples show different ways of saying the same thing.

²game *adj* **gam·er; -est**
1 : willing or ready to do something ▪ "Do you feel like going to the movies tonight?" "Sure, I'm *game*." ▪ They were *game* for anything. = They were *game* to try anything.

Many **common phrases** are highlighted in examples and are sometimes followed by explanations.

be·hav·ior (*US*) *or Brit* **be·hav·iour** /bɪˈhevjɚ/ *noun, pl* **-iors**
1 : the way a person or animal acts or behaves [*noncount*] I'm surprised by her bad *behavior* toward her friends. ▪ Students will be rewarded for good *behavior*. ▪ scientists studying the *behavior* of elephants ▪ normal adolescent *behavior* ▪ criminal *behavior* ▪ an interesting ***pattern of behavior*** = an interesting ***behavior pattern*** ▪ The children were all ***on their best behavior*** [=were all behaving very well and politely] at the museum. ▪ Inmates may be released from prison early ***for good behavior***. [=because they have followed prison rules and have not caused problems]

Examples that show collocations and other common word groups are introduced by a brief note.

in·struct /ɪnˈstrʌkt/ *verb* **-structs; -struct·ed; -struct·ing** [+ *obj*] *formal*
1 : to teach (someone) a subject, skill, etc. — usually + *in* or *on* ▪ His friend *instructed* him *in* English. ▪ Many doctors are *instructing* their patients *on* the importance of exercise. ▪ She *instructed* us *on* how to interpret the text.
2 a : to give (someone) an order or command ▪ She *instructed* us that we were to remain in our seats. — usually followed by *to* + *verb* ▪ She *instructed* us *to remain* in our seats. — often used as *(be) instructed* ▪ We were *instructed to remain* in our seats. **b** *law* : to give an order or an explanation of a law to (a jury) ▪ The judge *instructed* the jury that they should disregard the testimony of the last witness.
3 *Brit* : to hire (a lawyer) to represent you in a legal case ▪ She advised him to *instruct* a solicitor.

Words that are shown in parentheses in an example are optional words, which means that they can be included or omitted without changing the basic meaning of the example.

[2]hiss *verb* **hisses; hissed; hiss·ing**
1 [*no obj*] : to produce a sound like a long "s" : to make a hiss ▪ The radiator *hissed* as it let off steam. ▪ a *hissing* noise
2 : to show that you dislike or disapprove of someone (such as a performer or speaker) by making a hiss [*no obj*] The audience booed and *hissed* (at him) when he came on stage. [+ *obj*] The audience *hissed* him off the stage.
3 [+ *obj*] : to say (something) in a loud or angry whisper ▪ "Leave me alone!" he *hissed*.

A slash / is used between words in an example or phrase when either of the words can be used in the same place in that example or phrase. Words separated by slashes in examples do not always have the same meaning.

cat·nap /'kæt,næp/ *noun, pl* **-naps** [*count*] : a short period of sleep : a brief nap ▪ He took/had a *catnap*.
– **cat·nap** *verb* **-naps; -napped; -nap·ping** [*no obj*] ▪ She closed her eyes to *catnap* while her friend drove the car.

flu·o·res·cent /flu'rɛsnt/ *adj*
1 : producing light when electricity flows through a tube that is filled with a type of gas ▪ a *fluorescent* light/lamp
2 : very bright ▪ *fluorescent* colors/clothing ▪ *fluorescent* tape/paint

Forms and Tenses

When a noun, verb, adjective, or adverb has different forms or tenses, those forms or tenses are shown in boldface at the beginning of the entry immediately after the label *noun, verb, adj,* or *adv.*

A noun's ***plural form*** is shown when one or more of its senses can be plural. The abbreviation ***pl*** is used to mean *plural.* Often just the last part of the plural form is shown.

ho·tel /hoʊ'tɛl/ *noun, pl* **-tels** [*count*] : a place that has rooms in which people can stay especially when they are traveling : a place that provides food, lodging, and other services for paying guests ▪ check into a *hotel* ▪ check out of a *hotel*
ho·tel·i·er /hoʊ'tɛljɚ/ *noun, pl* **-iers** [*count*] : a person who owns or operates a hotel

When the plural form of a compound noun is shown, a special symbol ~ is used to represent the first word or words of the noun. In the example shown here, the plural form of the noun *flower bed* is *flower beds.*

flower bed *noun, pl* ~ **beds** [*count*] : an area where flowers are planted

All verb entries show these three forms: the **present third-person singular** form, the **past tense,** and the **present participle.** [See pages 1936–38 for grammar help on verb tenses.] In many cases, only the last parts of the forms are shown.

[1]blink /'blɪŋk/ *verb* **blinks; blinked; blink·ing**

ga·lumph /gə'lʌmf/ *verb* **-lumphs; -lumphed; -lumphing** [*no obj*] *informal* : to move in a loud and clumsy way ▪ I could hear him *galumphing* around in the attic.

When the **past participle** and the past tense of a verb are different, the past participle is also shown after the past tense.

[1]drive /'draɪv/ *verb* **drives; drove** /'droʊv/; **driv·en** /'drɪvən/; **driv·ing**

Some **adjectives** and **adverbs** have **comparative** and **superlative** forms which are shown in boldface at the beginning of the entry. These forms are often created by adding ***-er*** or ***-est*** to the main entry word. The entry for *short* indicates that the comparative form is *shorter* and the superlative form is *shortest.* [See also *Grammatical Labels* (below) for more information about the treatment of comparative and superlative forms.]

[1]short /ʃoərt/ *adj* **short·er; -est**

Sometimes the comparative and superlative forms are very different from the main entry word.

[1]good /gʊd/ *adj* **bet·ter** /'bɛtə/; **best** /bɛst/

When an entry has both an American and a British spelling, the forms and tenses are shown only for the American spelling in order to save space. For example, the entry for *harbor* shows only the American plural *harbors.* If you are using the British spelling, of course, the plural should be *harbours.*

[1]har·bor (*US*) *or Brit* **har·bour** /'hɑəbə/ *noun, pl* **-bors** [*count*]

Grammatical Labels

In addition to having a part of speech label, such as *noun, verb,* or *adj,* many entries include one or more **grammatical labels** which are shown in square brackets and which tell you the different forms or uses of a particular noun, verb, adjective, etc. When these labels appear at the beginning of the entry, they describe the entire entry. They can also appear at individual senses in an entry, and they can be used to introduce a particular example or group of examples.

Most nouns are labeled [*count*], [*noncount*], [*count, noncount*], [*singular*], or [*plural*]. [See pages 1927–28 for grammar help on nouns.]

An entry or sense for a noun is labeled **[*count*]** when it has both a singular and a plural form.

heart·beat /'hɑət,bi:t/ *noun, pl* **-beats** [*count*] : the action or sound of the heart as it pumps blood ▪ The patient had a rapid *heartbeat.* ▪ irregular *heartbeats*

An entry or sense for a noun is labeled **[*noncount*]** when it does not have a plural form and when it refers to something that cannot be counted.

heart·burn /'hɑət,bərn/ *noun* [*noncount*] : an unpleasant hot feeling in your chest caused by something that you ate ▪ I like spicy food, but it gives me *heartburn.*

When a noun can be used as both a count and a noncount noun, it is sometimes given a **[*count, noncount*]** label.

sedge /'sɛʤ/ *noun, pl* **sedg·es** [*count, noncount*] : a plant like grass that grows in wet ground or near water

An entry or sense for a noun that is always used in its plural form is labeled **[*plural*]**.

long johns /'lɑ:ŋ,ʤɑ:nz/ *noun* [*plural*] : underwear that covers your legs and that is worn in cold weather — called also (*US*) *long underwear;* see color picture on page C12

An entry or sense for a noun that refers to one thing and is never used in a plural form is labeled **[*singular*]**.

[2]glow *noun* [*singular*]
1 : a soft and steady light ▪ We could see the *glow* of the lamp in the window. ▪ The town's lights cast a *glow* on the horizon.

Most **verbs** in this dictionary are labeled as either [+ *obj*] or [*no obj*] or both. Other types of verbs have these labels: [*modal verb*], [*linking verb*], or [*auxiliary verb*]. Verbs labeled [*phrasal verb*] are entered as phrases at the end of a verb entry. [See pages 1930–31 for grammar help on verbs.]

An entry or sense for a verb that has an object is labeled **[+ *obj*]**. A verb of this kind is known as a **transitive verb**.

[2]graze *verb* **grazes**; **grazed**; **grazing** [+ *obj*]
1 : to touch or hit (something) while moving past it ▪ The car's wheel *grazed* the curb. ▪ He was *grazed* by a bullet.

An entry or sense for a verb that does not have an object is labeled **[*no obj*]**. A verb of this kind is known as an **intransitive verb**.

[1]gab /ˈgæb/ *verb* **gabs**; **gabbed**; **gab·bing** [*no obj*] *informal*
: to talk a lot in an informal way usually about things that are not important or serious ▪ They stayed up late *gabbing* (away) on the phone. ▪ *gabbing* about the weather
– **gab·ber** *noun, pl* **-bers** [*count*] ▪ talk radio *gabbers*

An entry or sense that is labeled **[*linking verb*]** does not express action but is used to say that something exists or is in a particular state. It connects an object with an adjective or noun that describes or identifies a subject.

be·come /bɪˈkʌm/ *verb* **-comes**; **-came** /-ˈkeɪm/; **-come**; **-com·ing**
1 [*linking verb*] : to begin to be or come to be something specified ▪ Although I've known him for years, we didn't *become* close friends until recently. ▪ She won the election, *becoming* the first woman to be President of the nation. ▪ They both *became* teachers.

An entry or sense that is labeled **[*auxiliary verb*]** is used with another verb in order to show the verb's tense, to form a question, etc.

be /ˈbi:/ *verb*...
10 [*auxiliary verb*] — used with the past participle of a verb to form passive constructions ▪ The money *was found* by a child. ▪ They *were* [=*got*] *married* by a priest. ▪ Don't *be fooled* by what he says. ▪ Please *be seated*. [=please sit down] ▪ The election *was expected* to produce a very close result. ▪ God *be praised*! [=let God be praised] ▪ I *was surprised* by her rudeness.

An entry or sense that is labeled **[*modal verb*]** is used with another verb to express an idea about what is possible, necessary, etc.

[1]can /kən, ˈkæn/ *verb, past tense* **could** /kəd, ˈkʊd/ *present tense for both singular and plural* **can**; *negative* **can·not** /ˈkænɑt, kəˈnɑ:t, *Brit* ˈkænət/ *or* **can't** /ˈkænt, *Brit* ˈkɑ:nt/ [*modal verb*]
1 : to be able to (do something) ▪ I don't need any help. I *can* do it myself. ▪ I *can't* decide what to do. ▪ All we *can* do [=the only thing we can do] now is wait. : to know how to (do something) ▪ She *can* read, *can't* she? ▪ I *can* whistle. : to have the power or skill to (do something) ▪ A weight lifter *can* lift a very heavy weight. ▪ She *can* play the piano. ▪ Only Congress *can* do that. : to be designed to (do something) ▪ a car that *can* hold five people [=a car that has enough room for five people] ▪ How fast *can* [=*does, will*] the car go?

A verb that is labeled **[*phrasal verb*]** is a verb that is used with a preposition, an adverb, or both.

[2]pal *verb* **pals**; **palled**; **pal·ling**
pal around with [*phrasal verb*] *informal* ***pal around with (someone)*** *chiefly US* : to spend time with (someone) as a friend ▪ She's been *palling around with* a girl she met at school.
pal up [*phrasal verb*] *chiefly Brit, informal* : to become friends with someone ▪ They *palled up* when they were neighbors long ago. ▪ He *pals up* with anyone who can help his career.

The **comparative** and **superlative** forms of some **adjectives** and **adverbs** are formed by adding the letters *-er* and *-est* at the end of the word or by changing the word completely. Other adjectives and adverbs are given their comparative and superlative forms by using the words *more* and *most*. [See pages 1931–34 for grammar help on adjectives and adverbs.]

When a word has comparative and superlative forms that use the words *more* and *most,* the word is given the label **[*more* ~; *most* ~]**. This label also means that an adjective or adverb can be used with words like *very* and *slightly*. The example shown here means that you can say that one thing is "more complicated" than another, that something is the "most complicated" one of a group, that something is "very complicated," etc.

com·pli·cat·ed /ˈkɑːmpləˌkeɪtəd/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]
: hard to understand, explain, or deal with ▪ The game's rules are too *complicated*. ▪ a *complicated* situation ▪ a very *complicated* issue : having many parts or steps ▪ The machine has a *complicated* design. ▪ a *complicated* plan ▪ a *complicated* mathematical formula

Sometimes the comparative and superlative forms of an adjective or adverb can be formed in two different ways. The word **or** is included in the label when the *more/most* forms are as common as the *-er/-est* forms. When the *more/most* forms are much less common, **also** is used.

drea·ry /ˈdrɪri/ *adj* **drea·ri·er**; **-ri·est** [*or more* ~; *most* ~]
: causing unhappiness or sad feelings : not warm, cheerful, etc. ▪ It was a gray, *dreary* morning. ▪ She longed to leave her *dreary* [=*gloomy, dismal*] hometown. ▪ The family struggled through *dreary* economic times.

[1]small /ˈsmɑːl/ *adj* **small·er**; **-est** [*also more* ~; *most* ~]
1 : little in size ▪ They live in a *small* house. ▪ a *small* glass of soda ▪ She moved to a *smaller* town. ▪ The toy is *small* enough to fit in my pocket. ▪ He has *small* hands. ▪ This room is a little *smaller* than that one.

Sometimes the label [*more* ~; *most* ~] is shown only at a specific sense. In the example shown here, the first sense of *muscular* cannot be used with words like *more, most,* and *very,* but the second sense can.

mus·cu·lar /ˈmʌskjələ/ *adj*
1 : of or relating to muscles ▪ *muscular* strength/weakness ▪ a *muscular* injury
2 [*more* ~; *most* ~] : having large and strong muscles ▪ a *muscular* athlete ▪ He has a *muscular* physique. ▪ His legs are very *muscular*.
– **mus·cu·lar·i·ty** /ˌmʌskjəˈlerəti/ *noun* [*noncount*]

When an adverb is shown at the end of the entry for an adjective that has a [*more* ~; *most* ~] label, the label is not repeated for the adverb, but it also describes how the adverb can be used. In the example shown here, both the adjective *querulous* and the adverb *querulously* can be used with words like *more, most,* and *very*.

quer·u·lous /ˈkweɚjələs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *formal*
: complaining in an annoyed way ▪ The child said in a *querulous* [=*whining*] voice that he didn't like carrots. ▪ *querulous* customers
– **quer·u·lous·ly** *adv* – **quer·u·lous·ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

Other Labels

Many entries include labels such as *formal, informal, US, Brit,* etc. [See page 21a for a list of the labels that are commonly used in this dictionary.]

When a label appears at the beginning of an entry, it describes the entire entry, including any undefined words that may appear at the end of the entry. In the example shown here, the label *formal* means that both senses of *mendacious* are formal, and that the adverb *mendaciously* and the noun *mendaciousness* are also formal words.

men·da·cious /mɛnˈdeɪʃəs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *formal*
1 : not honest : likely to tell lies ▪ a *mendacious* businessman
2 : based on lies ▪ The newspaper story was *mendacious* and hurtful. ▪ a *mendacious* political campaign
– **men·da·cious·ly** *adv* – **men·da·cious·ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

When a label is used at a specific part of an entry (such as a particular sense or example), it relates only to that specific part.

[1]grit /ˈgrɪt/ *noun* [*noncount*]
1 : very small pieces of sand or stone ▪ He shook out his shoes to remove the small rocks and *grit*.
2 *informal* : mental toughness and courage ▪ Through resourcefulness and *grit*, the pioneers survived the winter.

live•li•hood /ˈlaɪvliˌhʊd/ *noun, pl* **-hoods** : a way of earning money in order to live [*count*] Many fishermen believe that the new regulations threaten their *livelihoods*. [*noncount*] (*formal*) He claims he lost a source/means of *livelihood* when he was injured.

Cross-references

Many entries include notes that direct you to another entry or sense for additional information.

Compare notes are placed at the entries of words that are similar or that may be confused with each other.

[1]can•ter /ˈkæntɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ters**
1 [*singular*] : the way a horse moves when it is running fairly fast ▪ He set off ***at a canter*** towards the stable.
2 [*count*] : a ride or run at a canter — usually singular ▪ a *canter* through the fields — compare [1]GALLOP, [2]TROT

When two or more homographs have the same part of speech, a *compare* note is included at the end of each entry.

[3]do *noun, pl* **dos** [*count*] *informal*
1 : something that a person should do — usually used in the phrase ***dos and don'ts*** ▪ She told her daughter about the *dos and don'ts* of dating. [=about the things that she should and should not do when dating someone]
2 *US* : a way of cutting and arranging a person's hair : HAIRDO ▪ She was worried that the wind might mess up her *do*.
3 : a party or social gathering ▪ We threw a big *do* for her after graduation.
– compare [4]DO

[4]do /ˈdoʊ/ *or chiefly Brit* **doh** *noun* [*noncount*] : the first note of a musical scale ▪ *do*, re, mi, fa, sol, la, ti — compare [3]DO

See also notes often direct you to another entry that uses a form of the word you were looking up.

ef•face /ɪˈfeɪs/ *verb* **-fac•es**; **-faced**; **-fac•ing** [+ *obj*] *formal* : to cause (something) to fade or disappear ▪ coins with dates *effaced* by wear ▪ a memory *effaced* by time — see also SELF-EFFACING
– **ef•face•ment** /ɪˈfeɪsmənt/ *noun* [*noncount*]

See also notes can also direct you to a phrase that is defined at another entry.

die–hard /ˈdaɪˌhɑɚd/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : very determined or loyal ▪ *die-hard* fans; *especially* : very loyal to a set of beliefs and not willing to change those beliefs ▪ a *die-hard* conservative — see also *die hard* at [1]DIE
– **die•hard** *noun, pl* **-hards** [*count*] ▪ a bunch of conservative *diehards*

And *see also* notes can direct you to a different part of the same entry.

[2]act *verb* **acts**; **act•ed**; **act•ing** . . .
6 [*no obj*] : to make something happen : to have a particular effect ▪ The chemical *acts* [=*works*] by destroying the cells in the brain. — often + *on* ▪ These medicines *act on* [=*affect*] the heart. — see also ACT ON/UPON (below)
act on/upon [*phrasal verb*] ***act on/upon (something)*** : to use (something, such as a feeling or suggestion) as a reason or basis for doing something ▪ They never *acted on* the information they had. ▪ We were too late to *act upon* his suggestion. ▪ It's okay to feel angry or jealous, but you mustn't *act on* those feelings. — see also [2]ACT 6 (above)

A **see** cross-reference tells you that more information can be found at another entry.

dif·fer /ˈdɪfɚ/ *verb* **-fers**; **-fered**; **-fer·ing** [*no obj*] . . .
2 : to have opinions that don't agree ▪ We *differ* [=*disagree*] on/about/over how best to raise the money. — often + *with* ▪ They *differed with* each other on religious matters.
agree to differ see AGREE
beg to differ see BEG

key·hole /ˈkiːˌhoʊl/ *noun, pl* **-holes** [*count*] : the opening in a lock into which a key is placed — see picture at DOOR

Other Features

Differences between words that have the same meanings or very similar meanings are discussed in special ***synonyms*** paragraphs.

synonyms REMARK, OBSERVATION, and COMMENT mean something that is said or written and that gives an opinion. REMARK often suggests a quick thought or an informal judgment. ▪ He made a casual *remark* about the food. OBSERVATION often suggests an opinion expressed after looking closely at and thinking about something. ▪ She published her *observations* on whales after 10 years of study. COMMENT often suggests a remark that is meant to explain or criticize. ▪ I asked her to give me her *comments* on the book when she finished it.

Problems and questions that relate to the use of a particular word are discussed in ***usage*** paragraphs.

usage *Ain't* is usually regarded as an error, but it is common in the very informal speech of some people and it is also used in informal and humorous phrases. ▪ That joke just *ain't* funny. ▪ Say it *ain't* so! ▪ You *ain't* seen nothing yet! ▪ Two out of three *ain't* bad. ▪ If it *ain't* broke don't fix it! ▪ Things *ain't* what they used to be. ▪ *Ain't* that the truth?

Many entries include notes that begin with the symbol ✧ and explain the **origins** of a word or provide other kinds of information.

Scrooge *or* **scrooge** /ˈskruːʤ/ *noun, pl* **Scroog·es** *or* **scrooges** [*count*] *informal* : a selfish and unfriendly person who is not willing to spend or give away money — usually singular ▪ His boss is a real *Scrooge* who never gives people raises. ✧ ***Scrooge*** is from the name of Ebenezer Scrooge, the main character in the story *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens.

PIN /ˈpɪn/ *abbr* personal identification number ✧ A personal identification number is a secret number that is used to get money from a bank account through a machine, to get personal information on a Web site, etc.

See also notes can also direct you to a phrase that is defined at another entry.

Labels Used in This Dictionary

Parts of Speech

(See pages 1927–35 for explanations and examples.)

abbr — abbreviation
adj — adjective
adv — adverb
combining form
conj — conjunction
definite article
indefinite article
interj — interjection
noun
prefix
prep — preposition
pronoun
suffix
verb

Grammatical Labels

(See pages 16a–18a for explanations and examples.)

for nouns: [*count*], [*noncount*], [*count, noncount*], [*singular*], [*plural*]
for verbs: [+ *obj*], [*no obj*], [*auxiliary verb*], [*linking verb*], [*modal verb*], [*phrasal verb*]
for adjectives and adverbs: [*more* ~; *most* ~], [*or more* ~; *most* ~], [*also more* ~; *most* ~]

Usage Labels

Regional Labels:

US — common only in American English
chiefly US — common in American English and sometimes used in British English
Brit — common only in British English
chiefly Brit — common in British English and sometimes used in American English

Status Labels:

slang — used in very informal, spoken English usually by a small group of people
offensive — likely to offend many people and usually avoided
obscene — very offensive in a way that many people find shocking
impolite — not used in polite speech and writing

Register Labels:

informal — used in informal speech and writing
formal — used in formal speech and writing
literary — used in novels, poetry, etc., and rarely used in ordinary speech and writing
old-fashioned — not often used today but used by people in the recent past or by older people
humorous — having a funny or amusing quality
technical — used by people who have special knowledge about a particular subject
disapproving — used to show that you do not like or approve of someone or something
approving — used to show that you like or approve of someone or something

Subject Labels

Labels like *medical, law,* and *baseball* are used to show the specific subject that a definition relates to.

Pronunciation Symbols

VOWELS

Note: when two symbols are separated by / in the list below (eɪ/ej, ʊ/ow, etc.), the second symbol is used when the sound occurs immediately before another vowel and the first symbol is used elsewhere. The symbols /ɑː iː uː/ are written as /ɑ i u/ when found in unstressed syllables.

æ	**a**sk, b**a**t, gl**a**d
ɑː	c**o**t, b**o**mb, p**aw**
ɛ	b**e**t, f**e**d
ə	**a**bout, b**a**n**a**, c**o**llide
iː/iːj	**ea**t, b**ea**d, b**ee**
ɪ	**i**d, b**i**d, p**i**t
ʊ	f**oo**t, sh**ou**ld, p**u**t
uː/uːw	b**oo**t, tw**o**, c**oo**
ʌ	**u**nder, p**u**tt, b**u**d
ɚ/ɚr	m**er**ge, b**ir**d, f**ur**ther
eɪ/ej	**ei**ght, w**a**de, pl**ay**
aɪ/aj	**i**ce, b**i**te, t**i**le
aʊ/aw	**ou**t, g**ow**n, **ow**l
oɪ/oj	**oy**ster, c**oi**l, b**oy**
oʊ/ow	**oa**t, **ow**n, z**o**ne
ɑɚ/ɑr	c**ar**, h**ear**t, st**ar**
eɚ/er	b**are**, f**air**, w**ear**
iɚ/ir	n**ear**, d**eer**, m**ere**
oɚ/or	b**oar**, p**ort**, d**oor**
uɚ/ur	b**oor**, t**our**

Note: The symbols below are for vowels that occur in British English. British pronunciations are shown in this dictionary when the most common British pronunciation is very different from the American pronunciation.

ɒ	*British* c**o**t, b**o**mb
ɔː	*British* c**augh**t, p**aw**, p**ort**
ɚː	*British* m**er**ge, b**ir**d
əʊ	*British* **oa**t, **ow**n, z**o**ne
ɪə	*British* n**ear**, d**eer**
ɛə	*British* b**are**, f**air**
ʊə	*British* b**oor**, t**our**

CONSONANTS

b	**b**a**b**y, la**b**or, ca**b**
d	**d**ay, ki**d**, ri**dd**le
ʤ	**j**ust, ba**dg**er, fu**dge**
ð	**th**en, ei**th**er, ba**th**e
f	**f**oe, tou**gh**, bu**ff**
g	**g**o, da**gg**er, ba**g**
h	**h**ot, a**h**ead
j	**y**es, vine**y**ard
k	**c**at, flo**ck**, s**k**in
l	**l**aw, ho**ll**ow
ḷ	ped**al**, batt**le**, fin**al**
m	**m**at, he**m**p, ha**mm**er
n	**n**ew, te**n**t, te**n**or, ru**n**
ṇ	butt**on**, sat**in**, kitt**en**
ŋ	ru**ng**, ha**ng**, swinger
p	to**p**, s**p**eed, **p**ay
r	**r**ope, a**rr**ive
s	**s**ad, mi**s**t, ki**ss**
ʃ	**sh**oe, mi**ss**ion, slu**sh**
t	**s**tick, la**t**e, la**t**er
ʧ	ba**tch**, nature, **ch**oose
θ	**th**in, e**th**er, ba**th**
v	**v**at, ne**v**er, ca**v**e
w	**w**et, soft**w**are
z	**z**oo, ea**s**y, bu**zz**
ʒ	vi**s**ion, a**z**ure, bei**ge**

OTHER SYMBOLS

ˈ	high stress: **pen**manship
ˌ	low stress: penman**ship**
Brit	indicates British pronunciation
/	slash used in pairs to mark the beginning and end of a pronunciation or set of pronunciations /ˈpɛn/

A Dictionary of the English Language

A

[1]a *or* **A** /ˈeɪ/ *noun, pl* **a's** *or* **as** *or* **A's** *or* **As**
1 : the first letter of the English alphabet [*count*] a word that begins with an *a* [*noncount*] a word that begins with *a*
2 : a musical note or key referred to by the letter A **:** the sixth tone of a C-major scale [*count*] play/sing an *A* [*noncount*] a song in the key of *A*
3 [*count*] **:** a grade that is given to a student for doing excellent work ▪ She got an *A* on the exam. ▪ He's an ***A student*** [=a student who gets A's for his schoolwork]
4 [*noncount*] — used to refer to the first of two or more people, places, or things that are being considered ▪ If *A*, B, and C divide the coins equally, how many does each person get?
an A for effort see EFFORT
exhibit A see [2]EXHIBIT
from A to Z **:** including everything ▪ The book is titled "Home Repairs *From A to Z*."
from (point) A to (point) B **:** from one place to another ▪ I don't care about the scenery. I'm only interested in getting *from A to B*.

[2]a /ə, ˈeɪ/ *or* **an** /ən, ˈæn/ *indefinite article* ✧ *A* is used before a consonant sound. ▪ *a* door ▪ *a* human *An* is used before a vowel sound. ▪ *an* icicle ▪ *an* honor Note that when a word begins with a vowel letter but is pronounced with a consonant sound, *a* is used. ▪ *a* one ▪ *a* union When an abbreviation begins with a consonant letter but is pronounced with a vowel sound, *an* is used. ▪ *an* FBI investigation ▪ *an* LCD display When a word begins with *h* but the first syllable of the word is not given primary stress, both *a* and *an* are used. ▪ *a* historic ▪ *an* historic
1 — used before singular nouns when the person or thing is being mentioned for the first time ▪ There was *a* tree in the field. ▪ *A* man walked past him. ▪ I heard *a* shout. ▪ He bought *a* house, but this is not the house he bought. ▪ I ordered *an* apple and some cheese: I ate the apple but not the cheese.
2 a — used like *one* before number words like *hundred, thousand*, etc. ▪ *a* hundred and twenty people ▪ *a* million dollars ▪ *a* dozen doughnuts **b** — used like *one* before number words like *third, fortieth*, etc. ▪ This is *a* [=*one*] third the size of that. **c** — used like *one* before units of weight, measurement, etc. ▪ *a* pound or two [=one or two pounds] ▪ *a* week or two [=one or two weeks] ▪ *a* foot and *a* half of water = one and *a* half feet of water **d :** one single **:** even one — used in negative constructions ▪ They didn't charge me *a* penny. [=they didn't charge me anything at all] ▪ "Did she say anything about it?" "Not *a* word."
3 — used before a word or phrase that indicates a type or class of person or thing ▪ My uncle is *a* plumber. ▪ Copper is *a* metal. ▪ She's *a* very nice lady. — often used before noncount nouns that are modified by an adjective or phrase ▪ *a* torrential rain ▪ She has *a* warmth that puts people at ease. ▪ I've always had *a* fondness for chocolate.
4 — used like *any* to refer in a general way to people or things ▪ *A* person who is sick can't work well. [=people can't work well if they are sick]
5 — used before a proper noun to indicate limited knowledge about the person or thing being mentioned ▪ *A* Mr. Smith [=a man named Mr. Smith] called to ask about the job. ▪ Among the towns of the area there is *a* Newton, I believe.
6 a — used before a proper noun that is acting as an example or type ▪ the attractions of *a* Boston or *a* Cleveland ▪ His friends say he's *an* Einstein in regard to science. **b** — used before the name of a day of the week to refer to one occurrence of it ▪ My birthday falls on *a* Tuesday this year.
7 a — used before the name of a person (such as a famous artist) when the name is being used to refer to something (such as a painting) created by that person ▪ The museum recently purchased *a* Rembrandt. [=a painting by Rembrandt] ▪ My violin is *a* Stradivarius. **b** — used before a family name to show that someone is a member of that family ▪ Did you know that she's *a* Kennedy?
8 — used before a proper noun referring to a person or thing that has a particular quality ▪ *A* triumphant Ms. Jones greeted her supporters. [=Ms. Jones was triumphant when she greeted her supporters] ▪ We were met at the door by *an* embarrassed Mr. Brown. [=Mr. Brown was embarrassed when he met us at the door] ▪ We had *a* very mild January.
9 — used with words like *bit* and *little* to form phrases that describe quantity, amount, or degree ▪ She felt *a bit* tired. ▪ It's getting *a little* late.
10 — used in phrases that describe how often something occurs, how fast something is going, etc. ▪ They meet twice *a* week. [=twice each week] ▪ The car was traveling at a hundred miles *an* [=*per*] hour.

[1]a- /ə/ *prefix*
1 : on **:** in **:** at ▪ *a*bed
2 : in (such) a state or condition ▪ *a*fire
3 : in (such) a manner ▪ *a*loud
4 *old-fashioned* **:** in the act or process of ▪ gone *a*-hunting [=gone hunting]

[2]a- *or* **an-** *prefix* **:** not **:** without ▪ *a*sexual

AA *abbr* **1** Alcoholics Anonymous **2** *Brit* Automobile Association

AAA *abbr, US* American Automobile Association

[1]aah /ˈɑː/ *interj* — used to express pleasure, surprise, or happiness ▪ *Aah*, that feels good.

[2]aah *verb* **aahs**; **aahed**; **aahing** [*no obj*] *informal* **:** to express amazement, joy, or surprise — used in the phrase ***ooh and aah*** ▪ We all *oohed and aahed* at/over the fireworks.
– aah *noun, pl* **aahs** [*count*] ▪ the oohs and *aahs* of the crowd

aard·vark /ˈɑəd,vɑək/ *noun, pl* **-varks** [*count*] **:** a large African animal that has a long nose and that eats ants and other insects

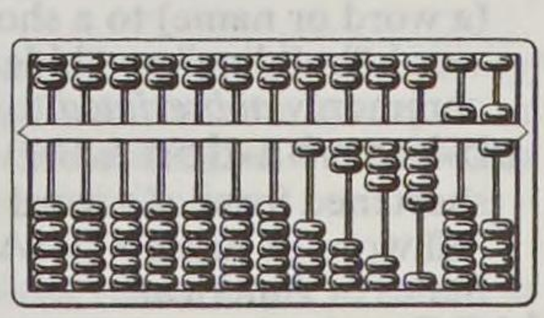
AARP *abbr, US* American Association of Retired Persons

ab /ˈæb/ *noun, pl* **abs** [*count*] *informal* **:** any one of the muscles that cover a person's stomach **:** an abdominal muscle — usually plural ▪ an athlete doing exercises to tone his *abs*

ab. *abbr* about

aback /əˈbæk/ *adv* **:** by surprise — used in the phrase ***taken aback*** ▪ She was *taken aback* [=she was very surprised] by his rude response. ▪ He was *taken aback* [=*shocked, startled*] when he saw their house.

aba·cus /ˈæbəkəs/ *noun, pl* **-cus·es** *also* **-ci** /-,saɪ/ [*count*] **:** a device used for counting and calculating by sliding small balls or beads along rods or in grooves


abacus

ab·a·lo·ne /,æbəˈloʊni/ *noun, pl* **-nes** [*count, noncount*] **:** a type of shellfish that is eaten

A

as food and that has a shell that is lined with a hard white material (called mother-of-pearl)

[1]aban·don /ə'bændən/ *verb* **-dons**; **-doned**; **-don·ing** [+ *obj*]

1 a : to leave and never return to (someone who needs protection or help) ▪ The child had been *abandoned* (by his parents) as an infant. ▪ He *abandoned* his family. **b** : to leave and never return to (something) ▪ *abandon* property ▪ They *abandoned* the car on a back road. ▪ That house was *abandoned* years ago.

2 : to leave (a place) because of danger ▪ The approaching fire forced hundreds of people to *abandon* their homes. ▪ The officer refused to *abandon* his post. ✧ If you ***abandon ship***, you leave a boat or ship that is sinking. ▪ The captain gave the order to *abandon ship*. This phrase is sometimes used figuratively. ▪ The company is doing poorly, and many investors have decided to *abandon ship*. [=to sell their stock in the company]

3 : to stop supporting or helping (someone or something) ▪ The policy *abandons* the most vulnerable members of society. ▪ She *abandoned* the party not long after the election.

4 : to stop doing or having (something) : to give up (something) completely ▪ We *abandoned* hope of ever going back. ▪ He *abandoned* the principles that he once fought hard to defend. ▪ She had to *abandon* her plans for a vacation. ▪ Play was *abandoned* because of the bad weather.

abandon yourself to *literary* : to allow yourself to be fully controlled or affected by (something, such as a strong emotion) ▪ He *abandoned himself to* despair. [=he was overcome by despair]

– **aban·don·ment** /ə'bændənmənt/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the *abandonment* of a child/home

[2]abandon *noun* [*noncount*] : a feeling or attitude of wild or complete freedom ▪ They all danced with (wild) *abandon*. ▪ She decided ***with reckless abandon*** [=in a very wild and reckless way] to quit her job and move to Tahiti.

aban·doned /ə'bændənd/ *adj*

1 a : left without needed protection or care ▪ an *abandoned* baby **b** : left by the owner ▪ an *abandoned* house/car **c** : no longer held or thought of : given up ▪ *abandoned* [=*forsaken*] hopes/dreams

2 [*more ~; most ~*] *literary* : wild and uncontrolled ▪ *abandoned* behavior ▪ He led a reckless and *abandoned* life and died young.

abase /ə'beɪs/ *verb* **abas·es**; **abased**; **abas·ing**

abase yourself *formal* : to behave in a way that makes you seem lower or less deserving of respect ▪ politicians *abasing themselves* before wealthy businessmen

abashed /ə'bæʃt/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : embarrassed or ashamed ▪ She seemed a little *abashed* when they asked about her job. — opposite UNABASHED

abate /ə'beɪt/ *verb* **abates**; **abat·ed**; **abat·ing** [*no obj*] : to become weaker : to decrease in strength ▪ We waited for the wind/storm to *abate*. ▪ The excitement has *abated*.

– **abate·ment** /ə'beɪtmənt/ *noun, pl* **-ments** [*noncount*] The violence has continued without *abatement*. [*count*] a ***tax abatement*** [=an amount by which a tax is reduced]

ab·at·toir /'æbə,twɑɚ/ *noun, pl* **-toirs** [*count*] *chiefly Brit* : SLAUGHTERHOUSE

ab·bess /'æbəs/ *noun, pl* **-bess·es** [*count*] : a woman who is the head of a convent

ab·bey /'æbi/ *noun, pl* **-beys** [*count*]

1 a : a monastery run by an abbot **b** : a convent run by an abbess

2 : a church that is connected to other buildings where monks or nuns live or once lived ▪ Westminster *Abbey*

ab·bot /'æbət/ *noun, pl* **-bots** [*count*] : a man who is the head of a monastery

abbr *or* **abbr.** *abbr* abbreviation

ab·bre·vi·ate /ə'bri:vi,eɪt/ *verb* **-ates**; **-at·ed**; **-at·ing** [+ *obj*] : to make (something) shorter ▪ He gave us an *abbreviated* [=*shortened*] account of his travels.; *especially* : to reduce (a word or name) to a shorter form ▪ You can *abbreviate* the word "building" as "bldg." ▪ "United States of America" is commonly *abbreviated* to/as "USA."

ab·bre·vi·a·tion /ə,bri:vi'eɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** [*count*] : a shortened form of a word or name that is used in place of the full word or name ▪ "USA" is an *abbreviation* of/for "United States of America."

[1]ABC /,eɪ,bi'si:/ *noun, pl* **ABCs** *or* **ABC's**

1 : the letters of the English alphabet [*plural*] (*US*) We learned our *ABC's*. [*singular*] (*Brit*) We learned our *ABC*.

2 : the most basic or important information about a subject [*plural*] (*US*) learning the *ABC's* of wine [*singular*] (*Brit*) learning the *ABC* of wine

(as) easy as ABC see [1]EASY

[2]ABC *abbr* **1** American Broadcasting Corporation ✧ ABC is one of the major television networks in the U.S. **2** Australian Broadcasting Corporation

ab·di·cate /'æbdɪ,keɪt/ *verb* **-cates**; **-cat·ed**; **-cat·ing**

1 : to leave the position of being a king or queen [*no obj*] The king was forced to *abdicate*. [+ *obj*] The king *abdicated* the throne.

2 [+ *obj*] *formal* : to fail to do what is required by (a duty or responsibility) ▪ The government *abdicated* [=*abandoned*] its responsibility to provide a good education to all citizens.

– **ab·di·ca·tion** /,æbdɪ'keɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** [*count, noncount*]

ab·do·men /'æbdəmən/ *noun, pl* **-mens** [*count*]

1 : the part of the body below the chest that contains the stomach and other organs — see picture at HUMAN

2 : the rear part of an insect's body

– **ab·dom·i·nal** /æb'dɑ:mənl/ *adj* ▪ *abdominal* pain/surgery ▪ *abdominal* muscles

ab·duct /æb'dʌkt/ *verb* **-ducts**; **-duct·ed**; **-duct·ing** [+ *obj*] : to take (someone) away from a place by force ▪ He was *abducted* [=*kidnapped*] from his home. ▪ She claims that she was *abducted* by aliens. [=that she was carried away in a spaceship by creatures from another world]

– **ab·duct·ee** /,æb,dʌk'ti:/ *noun, pl* **-tees** [*count*] ▪ alien *abductees* [=people who say they were abducted by creatures from another world] – **ab·duc·tion** /æb'dʌkʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** [*count*] *abductions* of children [*noncount*] an increase in the incidence of child *abduction* – **ab·duc·tor** /æb'dʌktɚ/ *noun, pl* **-tors** [*count*] ▪ She managed to escape from her *abductors*.

abed /ə'bɛd/ *adv, literary* : lying in a bed ▪ Though it was long past sunup, she was still *abed*.

ab·er·rant /ə'berənt/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] *formal* : different from the usual or natural type : unusual or abnormal ▪ *aberrant* behavior

ab·er·ra·tion /,æbə'reɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** : something (such as a problem or a type of behavior) that is unusual or unexpected [*count*] For her, such a low grade on an exam was an *aberration*. [*noncount*] a study of sexual *aberration*

abet /ə'bɛt/ *verb* **abets**; **abet·ted**; **abet·ting** [+ *obj*] *formal* : to help, encourage, or support someone in a criminal act ▪ She *abetted* the thief in his getaway. ▪ Did he *abet* the commission of a crime? ▪ Their actions were shown to *abet* terrorism. ▪ She is charged with ***aiding and abetting*** [=helping and encouraging] the thief in his getaway.

abey·ance /ə'bejəns/ *noun*

in abeyance *formal* : in a temporary state of being stopped ▪ The plans are *in abeyance*. = The plans are being held *in abeyance*. [=the plans are not now being used]

ab·hor /əb'hoɚ/ *verb, not used in progressive tenses* **-hors**; **-horred**; **-hor·ring** [+ *obj*] *formal* : to dislike (someone or something) very much ▪ They *abhor* [=*hate, loathe*] violence/racism. ▪ She simply *abhors* [=*despises*] exercise and hates to diet.

– **ab·hor·rence** /əb'horəns/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ their *abhorrence* of violence/racism

ab·hor·rent /əb'horənt/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] *formal* : causing or deserving strong dislike or hatred ▪ She finds violence in films *abhorrent*. ▪ It was an *abhorrent* crime. [=a contemptible crime] — sometimes + *to* ▪ The thought of failing is *abhorrent to* him. [=he hates the thought of failing]

abide /ə'baɪd/ *verb* **abides**; **abid·ed**; **abid·ing**

1 [+ *obj*] : to accept or bear (someone or something bad, unpleasant, etc.) — usually used in negative constructions ▪ I can't *abide* his bad moods. [=(more commonly) I can't stand his bad moods; I hate his bad moods]

2 [*no obj*] *old-fashioned + literary* **a** *past tense also* ***abode*** : to stay or live somewhere ▪ *abide* in the house of the Lord **b** : to remain or continue ▪ a love that *abided* till the end of their lives

abide by [*phrasal verb*] ***abide by (something)*** : to accept and be guided by (something) : OBEY ▪ We have to *abide by* the rules. ▪ They promise to *abide by* our decision.

abid·ing /ə'baɪdɪŋ/ *adj, always used before a noun* [*more ~; most ~*] *formal* : continuing for a long time : not changing ▪ She has an *abiding* [=*lasting*] love of art. ▪ They enjoyed an *abiding* [=*enduring*] friendship.

abil•i•ty /əˈbɪləti/ *noun, pl* **-ties** : the power or skill to do something [*count*] a young woman with many remarkable musical/artistic/athletic *abilities* — often followed by *to* + *verb* ▪ a teacher with an *ability to inspire* his students ▪ Does he have the *ability* [=*authority*] *to fire* employees? ▪ a writer's *ability* [=*capability*, *capacity*] *to interest* readers [*noncount*] a young woman of great musical/artistic/athletic *ability* ▪ She has shown some *ability* with foreign languages. ▪ He always works ***to the best of his ability.*** [=as well as he can]

-abil•i•ty *also* **-ibil•i•ty** *noun suffix* : ability, fitness, or likeliness to act or be acted on in (such) a way ▪ read*ability* ▪ excit*ability* ▪ compat*ibility* ▪ vis*ibility*

ab•ject /ˈæbˌʤɛkt/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

1 : extremely bad or severe ▪ They live in *abject* misery/poverty. ▪ The project ended in *abject* [=*complete*, *utter*] failure.

2 a : very humble : feeling or showing shame ▪ He offered an *abject* apology. **b** : very weak : lacking courage or strength ▪ She thought he was an *abject* coward.

– ab•ject•ly /ˈæbˌʤɛktli/ *adv* ▪ *abjectly* apologetic

ab•jure /æbˈʤuɚ/ *verb* **-jures**; **-jured**; **-jur•ing** [+ *obj*] *formal* : to reject (something) formally ▪ He *abjured* [=*renounced*] allegiance to his native country.

ablaze /əˈbleɪz/ *adj, not used before a noun*

1 : in the process of burning : on fire ▪ The house was *ablaze*. ▪ Lightning set the building *ablaze*.

2 : glowing with light, color, or emotion — often + *with* ▪ The valley was *ablaze with* fall foliage. ▪ Her eyes were *ablaze* [=*blazing*] *with* anger.

able /ˈeɪbəl/ *adj*

1 *not used before a noun* **a** : having the power, skill, money, etc., that is needed to do something ▪ He will buy a new car as soon as he is *able*. — usually followed by *to* + *verb* ▪ He will buy a new car as soon as he is *able to do* so. ▪ Is he *able to swim*? [=can he swim?] ▪ They weren't *able to afford* a vacation. [=they were unable to afford a vacation] ▪ I was so tired that I was barely/hardly *able to get* out of bed. ▪ A weight lifter *is able to lift* [=can lift] a very heavy weight. **b** : not prevented from doing something : having the freedom or opportunity to do something ▪ Come for a visit when you are *able* (to). — usually followed by *to* + *verb* ▪ Will you be *able to visit* soon? ▪ We were *able to leave* at noon. **c** — used to say that the quality or condition of something makes something possible ▪ a car that *is able to hold* [=can hold] five people ▪ The car *wasn't able to be* repaired. [=could not be repaired]

2 abler; ablest [*also more* ~; *most* ~] : having skill or talent ▪ He turned out to be an *able* editor/leader/soldier. ▪ She is one of the *ablest* lawyers in the firm.

-able *also* **-ible** *adj suffix*

1 : fit for or worthy of being ▪ lov*able* ▪ collect*ible*

2 : likely to or capable of ▪ break*able* ▪ perish*able*

3 : having a certain quality ▪ knowledge*able* ▪ peace*able*

able–bod•ied /ˌeɪbəlˈbɑːdid/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : having a healthy and strong body : physically fit ▪ We need several *able-bodied* men and women to help with the project.

ab•lu•tion /əˈbluːʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** [*count*] *formal* : the act of washing yourself — usually plural ▪ ritual *ablutions* before prayers ▪ (*humorous*) He performed his daily *ablutions* [=he washed himself] before having breakfast.

ably /ˈeɪbəli/ *adv* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : skillfully and well : in an able manner ▪ The chef was *ably* assisted by two helpers.

ab•nor•mal /æbˈnoɚməl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : different from what is normal or average : unusual especially in a way that causes problems ▪ *abnormal* behavior ▪ The results of the blood test were *abnormal*.

– ab•nor•mal•ly *adv* ▪ behave *abnormally* ▪ The cells grew *abnormally* quickly.

ab•nor•mal•i•ty /ˌæbnɚˈmæləti/ *noun, pl* **-ties** : something that is not usual, expected, or normal : something that is abnormal [*count*] The test results showed several genetic *abnormalities*. [*noncount*] There was some *abnormality* in his vision.

[1]aboard /əˈboɚd/ *adv* : on, onto, or within a train, a ship, an airplane, etc. ▪ He climbed *aboard* just as the train was leaving. ▪ Everyone *aboard* was injured in the accident. ✧ ***All aboard!*** is a call for passengers to get onto a ship or train because it is ready to leave.

[2]aboard *prep* : on or into (a train, ship, etc.) ▪ We went *aboard* (the) ship. ▪ She got *aboard* [=*on board*] the train.

[1]abode /əˈboʊd/ *noun, pl* **abodes** [*count*] *formal + humorous* : the place where someone lives — usually singular ▪ The cottage became their *abode* [=*home*] for the summer. ▪ Welcome to my humble *abode*. — often used in legal language ▪ How long has this been his principal ***place of abode***? [=the place where he usually lives] ▪ He has ***no fixed abode***. [=no home, no permanent address]

[2]abode *past tense of* ABIDE 2a

abol•ish /əˈbɑːlɪʃ/ *verb* **-ish•es**; **-ished**; **-ish•ing** [+ *obj*] : to officially end or stop (something, such as a law) : to completely do away with (something) ▪ *abolish* slavery/apartheid ▪ He is in favor of *abolishing* the death penalty.

ab•o•li•tion /ˌæbəˈlɪʃn̩/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the act of officially ending or stopping something : the act of abolishing something ▪ the *abolition* of a law; *specifically* : the act of abolishing slavery ▪ a proponent of *abolition*

ab•o•li•tion•ist /ˌæbəˈlɪʃn̩ɪst/ *noun, pl* **-ists** [*count*] : a person who wants to stop or abolish slavery

A–bomb /ˈeɪˌbɑːm/ *noun, pl* **-bombs** [*count*] : ATOMIC BOMB

abom•i•na•ble /əˈbɑːmənəbəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *formal* : very bad or unpleasant ▪ It was an *abominable* crime. ▪ We had *abominable* [=*terrible*] weather all week. ▪ His behavior was *abominable*.

– abom•i•na•bly /əˈbɑːmənəbli/ *adv* ▪ He behaved *abominably*.

abominable snowman *or* **Abominable Snowman** *noun* [*singular*] : a large hairy creature that walks on two feet like a man and that some people claim to have seen in the Himalayas — called also *yeti*; compare SASQUATCH

abom•i•nate /əˈbɑːməˌneɪt/ *verb* **-nates**; **-nat•ed**; **-nating** [+ *obj*] *formal* : to feel great hatred for (someone or something) : ABHOR ▪ a politician who is revered by his supporters and *abominated* by his enemies

abom•i•na•tion /əˌbɑːməˈneɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** [*count*] : something that causes disgust or hatred ▪ Some people view the sculpture as art while others see it as an *abomination*.

[1]ab•orig•i•nal /ˌæbəˈrɪʤənl̩/ *adj, always used before a noun*

1 : of or relating to the people and things that have been in a region from the earliest time ▪ *aboriginal* [=*native*] plant species ▪ *aboriginal* tribes/customs/art

2 : of or relating to the native people of Australia : of or relating to Australian aborigines ▪ the *aboriginal* peoples of Australia

[2]aboriginal *noun, pl* **-nals** [*count*] : ABORIGINE

ab•orig•i•ne /ˌæbəˈrɪʤəni/ *noun, pl* **-nes** [*count*]

1 : a member of the original people to live in an area ▪ North American *aborigines* [=*natives*]

2 *or* ***Aborigine*** : a member of any of the native peoples of Australia

abort /əˈboɚt/ *verb* **aborts**; **abort•ed**; **abort•ing**

1 [+ *obj*] : to end a pregnancy deliberately by causing the death of the fetus ▪ They decided to *abort* the pregnancy. ▪ *abort* a fetus

2 : to stop something before it is completed because of problems or danger [+ *obj*] *abort* the launch of a rocket ▪ *abort* a computer program ▪ I suggest that you *abort* the project. ▪ The mission had to be *aborted*. [*no obj*] When problems occurred during the launch, it was necessary to *abort*.

– aborted *adj* ▪ an *aborted* mission ▪ He made several *aborted* [=*abortive*] attempts to escape.

abor•tion /əˈboɚʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** : a medical procedure used to end a pregnancy and cause the death of the fetus [*count*] a doctor who performs *abortions* ▪ She chose to have/get an *abortion*. [*noncount*] demonstrators opposed to *abortion* ▪ *abortion* laws/rights

abor•tion•ist /əˈboɚʃənɪst/ *noun, pl* **-ists** [*count*] *disapproving* : a person who performs abortions

abor•tive /əˈboɚtɪv/ *adj* : failing to achieve the desired result : not successful ▪ He made several *abortive* [=*aborted*] attempts to escape. ▪ an *abortive* coup

abound /əˈbaʊnd/ *verb* **abounds**; **abound•ed**; **abounding** [*no obj*] : to be present in large numbers or in great quantity ▪ a business in which opportunities *abound* [=a business in which there are many opportunities] ▪ They live in a region where oil *abounds*.

abound in/with [*phrasal verb*] ***abound in/with (something)*** : to be filled with (something) : to contain a very large amount of (something) ▪ They live in a region that *abounds in/with* oil. ▪ a stream *abounding in/with* fish

[1]about /əˈbaʊt/ *adv*

1 a : almost or nearly ▪ We're *about* ready to go. ▪ I'm *about* starved. ▪ Are you *about* finished? ▪ This one is *about* as bad as that one. ▪ That's *about* all I know at this point. ▪ It's *about*

A

time to go. ▪ That's *about* all the time we have. ▪ We tried ***just about*** everything we could think of. ▪ "Is there anything else to do?" "No, ***that's about it/all.***" [=that's it/all; there is nothing else to do] **b** — used to indicate that a number, amount, time, etc., is not exact or certain ▪ The repair should cost *about* [=*approximately*, *roughly*] $200. ▪ We should leave in *about* 10 minutes. ▪ We got home at *about* 8 o'clock. = (*US*) We got home ***around about*** 8 o'clock. = (*Brit*) We got home ***round about*** 8 o'clock. [=it was approximately 8 o'clock when we got home]

2 : very close to doing something — followed by *to* + *verb* ▪ He is *about to leave*. [=he will be leaving very soon] ▪ We're *about to join* our friends for dinner. ▪ Their daughter is *about to graduate* from college. — often used with *not* to stress that someone will not do something ▪ I'm *not about to quit*. [=I am not going to quit; I will not quit]

3 *chiefly Brit* **a :** in many different directions ▪ They wandered *about* [=*around*] for several hours. **b :** in many different places ▪ People were standing *about* [=*around*], talking quietly in small groups. ▪ His tools were scattered *about* [=*around*] carelessly. **c :** in or near a particular area or place ▪ There was no one *about*. [=there was no one around; there was no one there]

4 : in the opposite direction ▪ turn *about* [=(more commonly) *around*] ▪ The captain ordered us to bring the ship *about*.

²about *prep*

1 a — used to indicate the object of a thought, feeling, or action ▪ There has been a lot of anger *about* [=*concerning*] the decision. ▪ We did something *about* the problems. ▪ That's what I like *about* you. ▪ What are you so pleased *about*? ▪ I'm worried *about* her. ▪ I forgot all *about* it. ▪ There's a question *about* [=*as to*] how the problem should be fixed. **b** — used to indicate the subject of something said or written ▪ I spoke *about* my past. ▪ She told me all *about* her vacation. ▪ What's he yammering *about* now? = (*Brit*) What's he ***on about*** now? ▪ books *about* birds ▪ a novel *about* Spain

2 : as part of (someone or something) ▪ There is a mature wisdom *about* her. [=she has a quality of mature wisdom] ▪ What was the most exciting thing *about* your vacation? [=what part of your vacation was most exciting?] ▪ There's something weird *about* that guy. [=that guy is weird]

3 — used to indicate the most important or basic part or purpose of something ▪ A good marriage is (all) *about* trust. [=trust is the most important part of a good marriage] ▪ The work he does is all *about* helping young people.

4 : near or not far from (something) in time ▪ a night *about* [=*around*] midsummer

5 a : in the area near to (something or someone) ▪ Fish are abundant *about* [=*around*] the reefs. **b :** over or in different parts of (a place) ▪ He traveled all *about* [=*around*] the country. ▪ He's a well-known figure *about* [=*around*, *throughout*] the town. **c :** on every side of (something or someone) ▪ A crowd gathered *about* [=*around*] him. ▪ They wrapped the blanket *about* [=*around*] her.

6 a — used to say that something is done quickly or slowly ▪ He was slow *about* doing his work. [=he did his work slowly] ▪ If you're going to do that, you need to be quick *about* it. [=you need to do it quickly] **b** *chiefly Brit* **:** in the act or process of doing (something) ▪ Do it well while you're *about* it. [=while you're at it] ▪ He seems to know what he's *about*. [=to know what he's doing]

how about see ¹HOW

what about see ¹WHAT

³about *adj*

out and about see ¹OUT

about–face /əˈbaʊtˈfeɪs/ *noun, pl* **-fac•es** [*count*]

1 : the act of turning to face in the opposite direction ▪ The soldiers were ordered to do an *about-face*.

2 : a complete change of attitude or opinion — usually singular ▪ After saying that he didn't want the job, he did an *about-face* and accepted the offer.

about–turn /əˈbaʊtˈtɚn/ *noun, pl* **-turns** [*count*] *Brit* **:** ABOUT-FACE

¹above /əˈbʌv/ *adv*

1 : in or to a higher place ▪ They stood under the tree and looked at the branches *above*. [=*overhead*] ▪ The stars shone *above*. [=in the sky] ▪ The stairs lead *above* [=*upstairs*] to the bedrooms. ▪ up *above* and down below ✧ The opposite of every sense of *above* is *below*.

2 : in or to a higher rank or number ▪ Students in the grade *above* [=in the next grade] study algebra. ▪ Groups of six and *above* [=of six or more] need reservations. ▪ a game that is suitable for children at/of age 10 and *above* [=*older*]

3 : above zero ▪ Temperatures range from 5 below to 5 *above*.

4 : higher, further up, or earlier on the same page or on a preceding page **:** at a previous point in the same document ▪ Write to us at the address shown *above*. [=at the above address] ▪ Except as noted *above*, all the information can be verified. ▪ the person named *above* = the *above*-named person

from above **1 :** from a higher place or position ▪ It looks like a cross when viewed *from above*. **2 :** from someone with greater power or authority ▪ waiting for orders *from above*

²above *prep*

1 : in or to a higher place than (something) **:** OVER ▪ He raised his arms *above* his head. ▪ They hung a mirror *above* the mantel. ▪ We rented an apartment *above* a restaurant. — opposite BELOW

2 : greater in number, quantity, or size than (something) **:** more than (something) ▪ Temperatures were *above* average all week. ▪ men *above* 50 years old — opposite BELOW

3 a : to a greater degree or extent than (something) ▪ She values her private time *above* her fame. **b :** in a higher or more important position than (something) ▪ He puts his child's needs *above* his own. — opposite BELOW

4 : having more importance or power than (someone) **:** having a higher rank than (someone) ▪ A captain is *above* a lieutenant. [=a captain outranks a lieutenant] ▪ Who is *above* him in that department? — opposite BELOW

5 : too important for (something) **:** not able to be affected by (something) ▪ She thinks that she's *above* criticism/suspicion. [=that she cannot be criticized/suspected] — see also *above the law* at LAW

6 : too good for (some type of behavior, work, etc.) ▪ I thought you were *above* lying to people. [=I thought such dishonest behavior was beneath you] ▪ He was not *above* cheating when it served his purposes. [=he would cheat when it served his purposes] ▪ Does she think she's *above* that kind of work? [=does she think that kind of work is beneath her?]

7 : more loudly and clearly than (another sound) ▪ I heard the whistle *above* [=*over*] the roar of the crowd.

above all **:** as the most important thing **:** ESPECIALLY ▪ *Above all*, we must consider what is best for the children.

above and beyond **:** far beyond what is required by (something, such as a duty) ▪ He went *above and beyond* the call of duty. [=he did more than his duty required him to do]

get above yourself *chiefly Brit* **:** to think you are more important than you really are ▪ We are pleased by his success, but we worry that he might be *getting above himself*.

over and above see ²OVER

³above *adj* **:** mentioned at an earlier point in the same document **:** written above ▪ You can contact me at the *above* address. [=at the address shown above]

the above **:** something that is mentioned at an earlier point in the same document ▪ If any of *the above* is incorrect, please me know. ▪ Contact any of *the above* [=any of the people mentioned above] for more information. ▪ The correct answer is "***none of the above.***"

above•board /əˈbʌvˌboɚd/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] **:** open, honest, and legal ▪ The committee tried to be fair and *aboveboard* in its hiring. ▪ an *aboveboard* and responsible proposal ▪ She acted in a completely ***open and aboveboard*** way.

above•ground /əˈbʌvˌgraʊnd/ *adj, US* **:** located or occurring above the ground ▪ an *aboveground* swimming pool ▪ *aboveground* nuclear tests — compare INGROUND, UNDERGROUND; see also *above ground* at ¹GROUND

ab•ra•ca•dab•ra /ˌæbrəkəˈdæbrə/ *interj* — used as a word with magical power by a performer doing a magic trick ▪ The magician said "*Abracadabra*!" and the coin disappeared!

abrade /əˈbreɪd/ *verb* **abrades**; **abrad•ed**; **abrad•ing** [+ *obj*] **:** to damage (something) by rubbing, grinding, or scraping ▪ skin *abraded* by shaving

abra•sion /əˈbreɪʒən/ *noun, pl* **-sions**

1 [*count*] **:** an injury caused by something that rubs or scrapes against the skin ▪ She fell and suffered cuts, bruises, and *abrasions* [=*scrapes*] on her legs.

2 [*noncount*] **:** the act or process of damaging or wearing away something by rubbing, grinding, or scraping ▪ *abrasion* of rocks by wind and water

¹abra•sive /əˈbreɪsɪv/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

1 a : causing damage or wear by rubbing, grinding, or scraping **:** of or relating to abrasion ▪ The waves had an *abrasive*

action on the rocks. **b** : having a rough quality ▪ an *abrasive* surface : used for rubbing something to make it smooth or shiny ▪ an *abrasive* material ▪ an *abrasive* cleaner
2 : very unpleasant or irritating ▪ He offended people with his *abrasive* [=*irritating, grating*] manner/personality. ▪ *abrasive* [=*rude, offensive*] comments
– **abra•sive•ly** *adv* ▪ an *abrasively* obnoxious manner/personality – **abra•sive•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

²abrasive *noun, pl* **-sives** [*count*] : a substance that is used for rubbing something to make it smooth, shiny, or clean : an abrasive substance

abreast /ə'brɛst/ *adv* — used to describe two or more people or things that are next to each other in a line ▪ columns/rows of five men *abreast* = columns/rows of men five *abreast* ▪ with seats two *abreast* on each side of the aisle
abreast of **1** : next to (someone or something) ▪ Another runner drew *abreast of* her. [=drew alongside her] **2** : aware of or informed about (new occurrences, facts, etc.) ▪ She is always *abreast of* the latest political news. ▪ He likes to keep/stay *abreast of* the news.

abridge /ə'brɪʤ/ *verb* **abridg•es**; **abridged**; **abridg•ing** [+ *obj*]
1 : to shorten (a book, a play, etc.) by leaving out some parts ▪ *abridge* a dictionary by omitting rare/uncommon words — see also UNABRIDGED
2 *formal* : to lessen the strength or effect of (something, such as a right) ▪ unlawful attempts to *abridge* [=*curtail, weaken*] freedom of speech
– **abridged** *adj* ▪ an *abridged* dictionary ▪ an *abridged* edition/version of a novel – **abridg•ment** *or* **abridge•ment** /ə'brɪʤmənt/ *noun, pl* **-ments** [*count*] an *abridgment* of a book ▪ an *abridgment* of their right to freedom of speech [*noncount*] a dictionary shortened by *abridgment*

abroad /ə'brɑ:d/ *adv*
1 : in or to a foreign country ▪ an actress who is popular both here and *abroad* ▪ both at home and *abroad* ▪ He hopes to study/travel/work/go *abroad* next year. ▪ The family came here ***from abroad*** [=from a foreign country] three years ago.
2 *formal* : going from one person to the next : talked about or known about by many people ▪ There are rumors *abroad* that the company is in trouble. ▪ A feeling of unease has been *abroad* these last few weeks.
3 *old-fashioned* : away from your home ▪ She doesn't go walking *abroad* [=*outside*] at night.

ab•ro•gate /'æbrə,geɪt/ *verb* **-gates**; **-gat•ed**; **-gat•ing** [+ *obj*] *formal*
1 : to end or cancel (something) in a formal and official way ▪ *abrogate* a law ▪ *abrogate* a treaty
2 : to fail to do what is required by (something, such as a responsibility) ▪ The company's directors are accused of *abrogating* their responsibilities.
– **ab•ro•ga•tion** /,æbrə'geɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** [*count, noncount*]

abrupt /ə'brʌpt/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]
1 : very sudden and not expected ▪ There was an *abrupt* change in the weather. ▪ The road came to an *abrupt* end. ▪ The storm caused an *abrupt* power failure.
2 a : talking to other people in a very brief and unfriendly way ▪ He is friendly with customers but *abrupt* (in his dealings) with his employees. ▪ She has an *abrupt* manner. **b** : rudely brief ▪ an *abrupt* [=*curt, brusque*] reply
– **abrupt•ly** *adv* ▪ The party ended *abruptly* when the police arrived. ▪ She turned *abruptly* and walked away. ▪ The land dropped off *abruptly*. – **abrupt•ness** *noun* [*singular*] There is an *abruptness* in her manner. [*noncount*] I was surprised by the *abruptness* of her manner.

abs *plural of* AB

ABS *abbr* antilock braking system

ab•scess /'æb,sɛs/ *noun, pl* **-scess•es** [*count*] *medical* : a painful area of inflamed tissue that is filled with pus
– **ab•scessed** /'æb,sɛst/ *adj* ▪ an *abscessed* tooth [=an infected tooth that has caused an abscess in the gum]

ab•scond /æb'skɑ:nd/ *verb* **-sconds**; **-scond•ed**; **-scond•ing** [*no obj*] *formal*
1 : to go away or escape from a place secretly ▪ The suspect *absconded* to Canada. ▪ Several prisoners *absconded* from the jail.
2 : to go away and take something that does not belong to you — + *with* ▪ a banker who *absconded with* all the money
– **ab•scond•er** *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]

ab•seil /'æb,seɪl/ *verb* **-seils**; **-seiled**; **-seil•ing** [*no obj*] *chiefly Brit* : RAPPEL

ab•sence /'æbsəns/ *noun, pl* **-senc•es**
1 [*singular*] : a state or condition in which something expected, wanted, or looked for is not present or does not exist : a state or condition in which something is absent ▪ There was an *absence* [=*lack*] of enthusiasm in the crowd. [=the crowd was not enthusiastic] ▪ The products showed a remarkable *absence* of defects. ▪ ***In the absence of*** reform [=without reform], progress was slow. ▪ ***With the (continued) absence of*** rain [=because of the lack of rain], crops have begun to dry up.
2 [*count*] **a** : a failure to be present at a usual or expected place ▪ He had many *absences* from work. ▪ I expected to see her and was surprised by her *absence*. ▪ He was ***conspicuous by his absence***. [=it was very noticeable that he was not present] **b** : a period of time when someone is not present at a place, job, etc. ▪ She returned to the company after a long/prolonged *absence*. — see also LEAVE OF ABSENCE ✧ The saying ***absence makes the heart grow fonder*** means that you tend to like someone better when that person goes away for a time. ▪ She'll be away for a month, but you know what they say—*absence makes the heart grow fonder*.
in someone's absence **1** : while someone is away ▪ The study was completed *in her absence*. **2** : in the place of someone who is not present ▪ He was asked to speak *in his brother's absence*.

¹ab•sent /'æbsənt/ *adj*
1 : not present at a usual or expected place ▪ They were talking about *absent* friends. [=friends who were not there] ▪ an *absent* father who is not home most of the time ▪ The soldier was ***absent without leave***. [=*AWOL*; absent without having permission to be absent] ▪ Most of the executives attended the meeting, but the company president was ***conspicuously absent***. [=*conspicuous by his absence*; it was very noticeable that the company president was not there] — often + *from* ▪ She was *absent from* work/school on three occasions.
2 : not present at all : not existing ▪ a gene that occurs in mammals but that is *absent* in birds ▪ a landscape in which vegetation is almost entirely *absent* — sometimes + *from* ▪ Vegetation is almost entirely *absent from* the landscape.
3 *always used before a noun* : showing that a person is thinking about something else : showing a lack of attention to what is happening or being said ▪ He made an *absent* reply to her question as he continued to watch the TV. ▪ There was an *absent* [=*distracted*] look on her face.
– **ab•sent•ly** *adv* ▪ He replied *absently* to her question.

²ab•sent /æb'sɛnt/ *verb* **-sents**; **-sent•ed**; **-sent•ing**
absent yourself *formal* : to go or stay away from something ▪ He *absented himself* from the meeting.

³ab•sent /'æbsənt/ *prep, US, formal* : in the absence of (something) : WITHOUT ▪ *Absent* any objections, the plan will proceed. ▪ *Absent* such an agreement we can go no further.

ab•sen•tee /,æbsən'ti:/ *noun, pl* **-tees** [*count*] : a person who is not present in a usual or expected place : a person who is absent ▪ There were 10 sick *absentees* that day.

absentee ballot *noun, pl* ~ **-lots** [*count*] *US* : a vote that is submitted before an election by a voter who is not able to be present when the election occurs

ab•sen•tee•ism /,æbsən'ti:,ɪzəm/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a tendency to be away from work or school without a good reason : the practice or habit of being absent from work or school ▪ Her office has a high rate of *absenteeism*. [=people in her office are frequently absent from work]

absentee landlord *noun, pl* ~ **-lords** [*count*] : someone who owns and rents property but does not live on or near the property and rarely visits it

absentia see IN ABSENTIA

ab•sent•mind•ed /,æbsənt'maɪndəd/ *adj* : tending to forget things or to not notice things : having or showing a lack of attention ▪ Her *absentminded* husband forgot their anniversary. ▪ She did the chores in an *absentminded* way.
– **ab•sent•mind•ed•ly** *adv* ▪ Her husband *absentmindedly* forgot their anniversary. – **ab•sent•mind•ed•ness** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ She mislaid her keys in a fit of *absentmindedness*. [=*absence of mind*]

ab•sinthe *also* **ab•sinth** /'æb,sɪnθ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a green alcoholic drink that has a very strong and bitter flavor

ab•so•lute /'æbsə,lu:t/ *adj*
1 *always used before a noun* : complete and total ▪ You can't predict the future with *absolute* certainty. ▪ I have *absolute* faith/confidence in her ability to get the job done. ▪ He swore an oath of *absolute* secrecy. ▪ When it comes to using computers, I'm an *absolute* beginner. — often used informally to

A

make a statement more forceful ▪ I swear that what I'm telling you is the *absolute* truth. ▪ He was an *absolute* disgrace to his family. ▪ That's *absolute* nonsense/rubbish! ▪ (*US*) That restaurant serves the *absolute* best Mexican food I've ever eaten. [=that restaurant serves absolutely the best Mexican food I've ever eaten] — sometimes used with *the most* ▪ That's *the most absolute* nonsense/rubbish I ever heard!

2 a : not limited in any way ▪ a ruler with *absolute* power = a ruler whose power is *absolute* ▪ *absolute* authority **b :** having unlimited power ▪ The country is ruled by an *absolute* dictator/monarch. **c :** ruled by someone with unlimited power ▪ The country is an *absolute* monarchy.

3 : not allowing any doubt ▪ He says that he has *absolute* [=*certain*] proof that his client is innocent.

4 a : never changing : always true or real ▪ You have the *absolute* right to remain silent. ▪ an *absolute* requirement = a requirement that is *absolute* ▪ *absolute* [=*unqualified*] freedom **b :** not depending on or compared with anything else ▪ The company has grown ***in absolute terms***, but its share of the market is actually less than it was a few years ago.

– ab·so·lute·ness *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the *absoluteness* of the king's power ▪ the *absoluteness* of his certainty

ab·so·lute·ly /ˈæbsəˌluːtli/ *adv*

1 : in an absolute way: such as **a :** completely or totally ▪ He is *absolutely* certain who will win. ▪ Let me make one thing *absolutely* clear. ▪ Keep *absolutely* quiet during the movie. — often used to make a statement more forceful ▪ We had an *absolutely* wonderful time. ▪ I *absolutely* love the car. ▪ His fans have gone *absolutely* crazy over his latest CD. ▪ That restaurant serves *absolutely* the best food I've ever eaten. **b :** with unlimited power ▪ The king ruled *absolutely*.

2 — used in speech as a forceful way of saying "yes" or of expressing agreement ▪ "Would you like to see a movie tonight?" "*Absolutely*!" ▪ "We all need to work harder." "*Absolutely*!" ✧ ***Absolutely not*** is used in speech as a forceful way of saying "no" or of expressing disagreement. ▪ "Do you think he's right?" "*Absolutely not*!"

absolute zero *noun* [*noncount*] *technical* : the temperature that is believed to be the lowest possible temperature ✧ Absolute zero is equal to approximately -273.15°C or -459.67°F.

ab·so·lu·tion /ˌæbsəˈluːʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] *formal* : the act of forgiving someone for having done something wrong or sinful : the act of absolving someone or the state of being absolved ▪ He asked the priest to give/grant him *absolution* for his sins.

ab·solve /əbˈzɑːlv/ *verb* **-solves**; **-solved**; **-solv·ing** [+ *obj*] *formal*

1 : to make (someone) free from guilt, responsibility, etc. ▪ He was *absolved* of the responsibility of repaying the loan. [=he was not required to repay the loan] ▪ His youth does not *absolve* him from being guilty for these crimes. = His youth does not *absolve* him of guilt for these crimes.

2 : to give forgiveness to (someone who has sinned) or for (a sin) ▪ He asked the priest to *absolve* him (of his sins). = He asked the priest to *absolve* his sins.

ab·sorb /əbˈsoəb/ *verb* **-sorbs**; **-sorbed**; **-sorb·ing** [+ *obj*]

1 a : to take in (something, such as a liquid) in a natural or gradual way ▪ A sponge *absorbs* water. ▪ Plant roots *absorb* moisture. ▪ a fabric that *absorbs* sweat — often used as *(be) absorbed* ▪ Water *is absorbed* by plants through their roots. ▪ nutrients that *are absorbed* into the body **b :** to draw in (heat, light, energy, etc.) ▪ The walls are made of a material that *absorbs* sound. ▪ *absorbing* heat from the sun

2 a : to learn (something) ▪ She is good at *absorbing* information/knowledge. ▪ He has retained the values that he *absorbed* as a young man. **b :** to take in and make (something) part of a larger group, country, etc. ▪ a country that has *absorbed* many immigrants ▪ smaller countries invaded and *absorbed* by/into bigger ones

3 : to take up the whole interest or attention of (someone) ▪ His interest in photography *absorbs* him completely. ▪ I was so *absorbed* by her story that I lost track of time. ✧ If you are ***absorbed in*** something, you are fully involved in it. ▪ She was (completely) *absorbed in* [=*lost in*] thought. ▪ He quickly found himself *absorbed in* [=*engrossed by*] the movie.

4 : to prevent (something harmful or unwanted) from passing through ▪ The frame of the car *absorbed* the impact.

5 a : to accept or deal with (something that is difficult, harmful, etc.) ▪ The company has had to *absorb* many setbacks in the past year. ▪ The expenses were *absorbed* [=*borne*] by his family. **b :** to use up (something) ▪ His work *absorbs* almost all of his time.

– ab·sorb·able /əbˈsoəbəbəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ nutrients *absorbable* by the body **– ab·sorb·er** *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] ▪ a moisture *absorber* — see also SHOCK ABSORBER **– absorbing** *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ The book includes an *absorbing* [=*engrossing, fascinating*] account of her childhood. **– ab·sorp·tion** /əbˈsoəpʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the *absorption* of water by a sponge ▪ the *absorption* of nutrients by the body ▪ heat/noise *absorption* ▪ His *absorption* in his work was total. [=he was totally absorbed in his work; he gave all his attention to his work]

ab·sor·bent /əbˈsoəbənt/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : able to take in and hold liquid : able to absorb liquid ▪ an *absorbent* cotton fabric ▪ highly/very *absorbent* paper towels **– ab·sor·ben·cy** /əbˈsoəbənsi/ *noun* [*noncount*]

ab·stain /əbˈsteɪn/ *verb* **-stains**; **-stained**; **-stain·ing** [*no obj*]

1 : to choose not to do or have something — usually + *from* ▪ He *abstained from* taking part in the discussion. ▪ I need to *abstain from* eating [=I need to not eat] for at least 12 hours before my blood test. ▪ *abstain from* (drinking) alcohol

2 : to choose not to vote ▪ Ten members voted for the proposal, six members voted against it, and two *abstained*.

– ab·stain·er *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]

ab·ste·mi·ous /æbˈstiːmijəs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *formal* : not eating and drinking too much ▪ She is known as an *abstemious* eater and drinker. ▪ an *abstemious* diet **– ab·ste·mi·ous·ly** *adv* **– ab·ste·mi·ous·ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

ab·sten·tion /əbˈstɛnʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** : the act or practice of abstaining: such as **a** [*noncount*] : the act of choosing not to do or have something ▪ He started drinking again after a long period of *abstention*. [=*abstinence*] — usually + *from* ▪ *abstention from* drugs and alcohol **b :** a formal refusal to vote on something [*count*] There were 10 ayes, 6 nays, and 2 *abstentions* when the vote was taken. [*noncount*] a high rate of voter *abstention*

ab·sti·nence /ˈæbstənəns/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the practice of not doing or having something that is wanted or enjoyable : the practice of abstaining from something ▪ The program promoted sexual *abstinence* for young people. — often + *from* ▪ *abstinence from* sex ▪ He started drinking again after a long period of total/complete *abstinence from* alcohol.

– ab·sti·nent /ˈæbstənənt/ *adj* ▪ He stopped drinking and has remained totally *abstinent*.

[1]ab·stract /æbˈstrækt, ˈæbˌstrækt/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

1 : relating to or involving general ideas or qualities rather than specific people, objects, or actions ▪ *abstract* thinking ▪ *abstract* ideas/concepts such as love and hate ▪ "Honesty" is an *abstract* word. ▪ The word "poem" is concrete, the word "poetry" is *abstract*. — opposite [2]CONCRETE 2

2 *of art* : expressing ideas and emotions by using elements such as colors and lines without attempting to create a realistic picture ▪ *abstract* art ▪ an *abstract* painting/painter

– ab·stract·ly /æbˈstræktli/ *adv* ▪ a child learning to think *abstractly* **– ab·stract·ness** /æbˈstræktnəs/ *noun* [*noncount*]

[2]ab·stract /ˈæbˌstrækt/ *noun, pl* **-stracts** [*count*]

1 : a brief written statement of the main points or facts in a longer report, speech, etc. : SUMMARY

2 : an abstract work of art (such as a painting) ▪ an artist admired for his *abstracts*

in the abstract : without referring to a specific person, object, or event : in a general way ▪ thinking about freedom *in the abstract*

[3]ab·stract /æbˈstrækt/ *verb* **-stracts**; **-stract·ed**; **-stracting** [+ *obj*]

1 : to make a summary of the main parts of (a report, speech, etc.) : to make an abstract of (something) ▪ *abstract* [=*summarize*] an academic paper

2 : to obtain or remove (something) *from* a source ▪ Data for the study was *abstracted from* hospital records.

3 *chiefly Brit, humorous* : to steal (something) ▪ She accused him of *abstracting* [=*pinching*] some money from her purse.

ab·stract·ed /æbˈstræktəd/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *somewhat formal* : not paying attention to what is happening or being said : thinking of other things ▪ She said hello but she seemed a bit *abstracted*.

– ab·stract·ed·ly *adv*

ab·strac·tion /æbˈstrækʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions**

1 [*noncount*] : the act of obtaining or removing something from a source : the act of abstracting something ▪ *abstraction* of data from hospital records

2 *formal* : a general idea or quality rather than an actual person, object, or event : an abstract idea or quality [*count*] "Beauty" and "truth" are *abstractions*. [*noncount*] the *abstraction* [=abstract quality] of his ideas

3 [*noncount*] *somewhat formal* : the state of someone who is not paying attention to what is happening or being said : an abstracted state ▪ She gazed out the window in *abstraction*.

ab•struse /əb'stru:s/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *formal* : hard to understand ▪ Her subject matter is *abstruse*. ▪ *abstruse* [=*obscure*] concepts/ideas/theories
– **ab•struse•ly** *adv* – **ab•struse•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

ab•surd /əb'sɚd/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : extremely silly, foolish, or unreasonable : completely ridiculous ▪ an *absurd* situation ▪ The charges against him are obviously/patently *absurd*. ▪ an *absurd* idea/suggestion/argument ▪ *absurd* humor

the absurd **1** : a state or condition of extreme silliness or foolishness : an absurd or ridiculous state ▪ Her ideas once seemed reasonable, but now they verge on *the absurd*. **2** : things that are absurd ▪ a filmmaker who is fascinated with *the absurd*

– **ab•sur•di•ty** /əb'sɚdəti/ *noun, pl* **-ties** [*noncount*] They laughed at the *absurdity* of the situation. [*count*] the *absurdities* of life – **ab•surd•ly** *adv* ▪ The directions were *absurdly* complicated. ▪ *absurdly* high prices

abun•dance /ə'bʌndəns/ *noun* : a large amount of something : an abundant amount of something [*singular*] The city has an *abundance* of fine restaurants. [=has many fine restaurants] ▪ a plant with an *abundance* of flowers [*noncount*] a plant known for the *abundance* of its flowers ▪ We are fortunate to live in a time of great *abundance*. [=a time when there is much food, money, etc.]

in abundance : in large amounts ▪ The city has fine restaurants *in abundance*. ▪ The flowers grew *in* great *abundance*.

abun•dant /ə'bʌndənt/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : existing or occurring in large amounts ▪ Rainfall is more *abundant* in summer. ▪ It is the most *abundant* bird in the forest. ▪ an *abundant* supply of food ▪ He offers *abundant* evidence that he is right. ▪ a society *abundant* in things to buy/do

synonyms see PLENTIFUL

– **abun•dant•ly** *adv* ▪ flowers blooming/growing *abundantly* ▪ It is *abundantly* [=*extremely*] clear/obvious that this problem will not be easily solved.

[1]abuse /ə'bju:z/ *verb* **abus•es**; **abused**; **abus•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to treat (a person or animal) in a harsh or harmful way ▪ He *abused* [=*mistreated*] his wife both mentally and physically. ▪ *abuse* a dog ▪ He was accused of sexually/physically/psychologically *abusing* a child.

2 : to use or treat (something) in a way that causes damage ▪ He *abused* his body with years of heavy drinking. ▪ He had *abused* his first car by not taking care of it.

3 : to use (something) wrongly ▪ *abuse* [=*misuse*] a privilege ▪ She *abused* her friend's trust. ▪ a senator who *abuses* his power ▪ He *abused* my confidence by letting this secret be known.

4 : to use too much of (a drug, alcohol, etc.) ▪ a drug that is *abused* by many people ▪ He was known to *abuse* alcohol.

5 : to attack (someone) in words ▪ The fans were verbally *abusing* the referee.

– **abused** *adj* ▪ providing help for *abused* children/women
– **abus•er** *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] ▪ a child *abuser* ▪ officeholders who are *abusers* of privilege ▪ alcohol/cocaine/drug/substance *abusers*

[2]abuse /ə'bju:s/ *noun, pl* **abus•es**

1 : the act or practice of abusing someone or something: such as **a** : harmful treatment of a person or animal [*noncount*] He subjected his wife to physical and emotional *abuse*. ▪ child *abuse* ▪ sexual *abuse* [*plural*] The government has been accused of ***human rights abuses***. [=of violating the basic rights of people by treating them wrongly] **b** [*noncount*] : the use or treatment of something in a way that causes damage ▪ his *abuse* [=*mistreatment*] of his body through poor eating habits ▪ These toys can stand up to a lot of *abuse*. [=can be handled roughly without being damaged] **c** : the act or practice of using something wrongly [*noncount*] the governor's *abuse* [=*misuse*] of his power/privileges [*count*] the buying of votes and other election *abuses* **d** [*noncount*] : the act or practice of using too much of a drug, alcohol, etc. ▪ *abuse* of alcohol ▪ drug/substance *abuse*

2 [*noncount*] : harsh and insulting language ▪ She was subjected to every term of *abuse* her boss could think of. ▪ a torrent/stream of verbal *abuse* ▪ The prisoner hurled/shouted/screamed *abuse* at the judge.

abu•sive /ə'bju:sɪv/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

1 : using harsh and insulting language ▪ He spoke to her in an *abusive* manner. = He was *abusive* when he spoke to her. ▪ *abusive* language ▪ The fans yelled *abusive* comments to the referee. ▪ a verbally *abusive* fan

2 : using or involving physical violence or emotional cruelty ▪ an *abusive* parent ▪ protecting wives from *abusive* husbands ▪ people in *abusive* relationships

– **abu•sive•ly** *adv* ▪ The boss treated the staff *abusively*.
– **abu•sive•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

abut /ə'bʌt/ *verb* **abuts**; **abut•ted**; **abut•ting** *formal* : to touch along an edge [+ *obj*] Their property *abuts* [=*adjoins*] our property. = Their property and our property *abut* each other. [=their property is directly next to our property; an edge of their property touches an edge of our property] [*no obj*] Their property and our property *abut*. — often + *on* ▪ Their property *abuts on* our property.

– **abut•ter** /ə'bʌtɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ters** [*count*]

abut•ment /ə'bʌtmənt/ *noun, pl* **-ments** [*count*] *technical* : a heavy structure that supports something (such as a bridge) ▪ The car crashed into a bridge *abutment*.

a•buzz /ə'bʌz/ *adj, informal* : filled with excited talk about something — usually + *with* ▪ Washington is *abuzz with* [=is buzzing with] rumors of a scandal.

abys•mal /ə'bɪzməl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : extremely poor or bad ▪ They were living in *abysmal* ignorance/poverty. ▪ *abysmal* [=*horrible*] living conditions ▪ The team had an *abysmal* [=*awful*] record. ▪ Her grades were *abysmal*. [=*terrible*]

– **abys•mal•ly** *adv* ▪ *abysmally* ignorant ▪ The house is in *abysmally* poor condition.

abyss /ə'bɪs/ *noun, pl* **abyss•es** [*count*] : a hole so deep or a space so great that it cannot be measured ▪ the ocean's *abysses* ▪ I stood at the edge of the cliff and gazed down into the yawning/gaping *abyss*. [=*chasm*] — often used figuratively ▪ He says that there is a widening *abyss* between the rich and the poor. ▪ She was pulled down into an *abyss* of despair.

AC *abbr* **1** *US* air-conditioning ▪ an apartment equipped with *AC* **2** alternating current

aca•cia /ə'keɪʃə/ *noun, pl* **-cias** [*count*] : a shrub or tree that grows in warm regions and that has white or yellow flowers

ac•a•de•mia /ˌækə'di:mijə/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the life, community, or world of teachers, schools, and education ▪ She found the business world very different from *academia*.

[1]ac•a•dem•ic /ˌækə'dɛmɪk/ *adj*

1 *usually used before a noun* : of or relating to schools and education ▪ She received awards for her *academic* achievements/accomplishments. ▪ I spent my *academic* career at one school. ▪ The board set tough *academic* standards for graduation. ▪ He was offered a teaching job and decided to return to *academic* life.

2 : having no practical importance : not involving or relating to anything real or practical ▪ His interest in sailing is purely *academic*. He's not a sailor himself. ▪ It was a question of only *academic* [=*theoretical*] interest.

3 [*more* ~; *most* ~] *chiefly Brit* : good at studying and at passing exams : good at academics ▪ He's not very *academic*, but he's good with his hands.

– **ac•a•dem•i•cal•ly** /ˌækə'dɛmɪkli/ *adv* ▪ He did well enough *academically* to be accepted at many colleges. ▪ an *academically* gifted student

[2]academic *noun, pl* **-ics**

1 [*count*] : a person who is a teacher in a college or university ▪ The book appeals to *academics* and to the general public.

2 ***academics*** [*plural*] *chiefly US* : courses of study taken at a school or college ▪ She excelled at *academics*. ▪ He only cares about sports. He has no interest in *academics*.

academic year *noun, pl* ~ **years** [*count*] : the time during a year when a school has classes ✧ In the U.S., the academic year usually begins in September and ends in May or June.

acad•e•my /ə'kædəmi/ *noun, pl* **-mies** [*count*]

1 a : a school that provides training in special subjects or skills ▪ a military/naval *academy* ▪ a riding/tennis *academy* **b** *US* : a private high school — used in proper names ▪ a student at Smith *Academy*

2 : an organization of people who work to support art, science, or literature — used in proper names ▪ the National *Academy* of Sciences ▪ a Fellow of the Royal *Academy*

Academy Award *trademark* — used for an award given by part of the U.S. film industry to the best actors, directors, etc., of the year

a cap•pel•la /ˌɑ:kə'pɛlə, *Brit* ˌækæ'pɛlə/ *adv* : without in-

A

strumental music ▪ The choir sings *a cappella*.
– **a cappella** *adj* ▪ *a cappella* singing/songs

ac•cede /æk'si:d/ *verb* **-cedes**; **-ced•ed**; **-ced•ing** [*no obj*] *formal*
1 : to agree to a request or a demand — usually + *to* ▪ The government was forced to *accede to* their demands.
2 : to enter a high office or position ▪ His son *acceded* upon the king's death. — usually + *to* ▪ He ***acceded to the throne*** [=he became king] in 1838.

ac•cel•er•ate /ɪk'sɛlə,reɪt/ *verb* **-ates**; **-at•ed**; **-at•ing**
1 : to move faster : to gain speed [*no obj*] She stepped on the gas and the car *accelerated*. ▪ The plane *accelerated* down the runway. [+ *obj*] She stepped on the gas and *accelerated* the car. — opposite DECELERATE
2 : to cause (something) to happen sooner or more quickly [+ *obj*] He says that cutting taxes will help to *accelerate* economic growth. ▪ Conditions *accelerated* our departure. [=conditions caused us to depart sooner] [*no obj*] The rate of economic growth has continued to *accelerate*.
– **accelerated** *adj* ▪ Changes have occurred at an *accelerated* pace/rate. ▪ She's taking an *accelerated* course in English. [=a course in which English is taught at a faster pace than usual] – **accelerating** *adj* ▪ an *accelerating* rate

ac•cel•er•a•tion /ɪk,sɛlə'reɪʃən/ *noun*
1 : the act or process of moving faster or happening more quickly : the act or process of accelerating [*noncount*] The car delivers quick/rapid *acceleration*. ▪ The car has good *acceleration*. [=the car is able to accelerate quickly] ▪ There has been some *acceleration* in economic growth. [*singular*] There has been an *acceleration* in economic growth.
2 [*noncount*] *physics* : the rate at which the speed of a moving object changes over time

ac•cel•er•a•tor /ɪk'sɛlə,reɪtɚ/ *noun, pl* **-tors** [*count*]
1 : a pedal in a vehicle that is pressed down to make the vehicle go faster ▪ hit/press the *accelerator* = step on the *accelerator* — called also (*US*) *gas pedal*; see picture at CAR
2 *technical* : a machine that causes charged particles (such as electrons and protons) to move at extremely high speeds ▪ a particle *accelerator*

[1]ac•cent /'æk,sɛnt, *Brit* 'æksənt/ *noun, pl* **-cents**
1 [*count*] : a way of pronouncing words that occurs among the people in a particular region or country ▪ Regional *accents* are common in the U.S. ▪ She spoke with an American/English *accent*. ▪ The tourist had a foreign *accent*. ▪ He has a heavy/thick southern *accent*. ▪ a slight/light/faint *accent* ▪ a French/German/Italian *accent*
2 [*count*] : greater stress or force given to a syllable of a word in speech ▪ The word "before" has the *accent* on the last syllable. ▪ Put the *accent* on the first syllable of the word.
3 [*count*] **a :** a mark (such as ' or ,) used to show the part of a word that should be given greater stress when it is spoken — called also *accent mark* **b :** a mark placed above a letter to show how it should be pronounced ▪ The *accents* in the French word "émigré" show how the letter "e" should be pronounced. — called also *accent mark*
4 [*singular*] : special concern or attention : EMPHASIS — usually + *on* ▪ This year's new TV shows put/place the/an *accent on* youth. ▪ Our *accent* is *on* providing our customers with dependable service.
5 [*count*] : a small decorative object or detail that is different from the things that are around it ▪ This type of plant is often used as a decorative *accent*. ▪ used *accents* of bright colors in the new room ▪ *accent* colors/lighting/plants

[2]ac•cent /'æk,sɛnt, *Brit* ək'sɛnt/ *verb* **-cents**; **-cent•ed**; **-cent•ing** [+ *obj*]
1 : to give special attention to (something) ▪ His speech *accented* [=*highlighted, emphasized*] positive parts of the plan.
2 : to say (part of a word) with greater stress or force ▪ When you say "before," you should *accent* the second syllable. = You should *accent* the word "before" on the second syllable.

accented *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]
1 : pronounced with stress ▪ an *accented* syllable
2 : spoken with a foreign accent ▪ He spoke heavily/strongly/slightly *accented* English.

accent mark *noun, pl* ~ **marks** [*count*]
1 : [1]ACCENT 3a
2 : [1]ACCENT 3b

ac•cen•tu•ate /æk'sɛntʃə,weɪt/ *verb* **-ates**; **-at•ed**; **-at•ing** [+ *obj*] : to make (something) more noticeable ▪ He likes to wear clothes that *accentuate* his muscular build. ▪ We felt that the article *accentuated* [=*emphasized*] the positive aspects of the program.
– **ac•cen•tu•ation** /ɪk,sɛntʃə'weɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*]

ac•cept /ɪk'sɛpt/ *verb* **-cepts**; **-cept•ed**; **-cept•ing**
1 a : to receive or take (something offered) [+ *obj*] *accept* a gift ▪ *accept* a proposal ▪ *accept* a bribe ▪ *accept* an assignment/invitation/offer ▪ They offered him the job, and he *accepted* it. [*no obj*] They offered him the job, and he *accepted*. **b** [+ *obj*] : to take (something) as payment ▪ The store doesn't *accept* credit cards. **c** [+ *obj*] : to be able or designed to take or hold (something) ▪ a surface that will not *accept* ink ▪ a computer program ready to *accept* commands
2 [+ *obj*] : to agree to (something) : to agree to receive or allow (something) ▪ *accept* a telephone call ▪ They *accepted* some applications and rejected others. ▪ She's still trying to get her manuscript *accepted* for publication. ▪ I *accept* your apology. ▪ They refused to *accept* his resignation.
3 [+ *obj*] **a :** to think of (something) as true, proper, or normal ▪ a word that has come to be *accepted* as standard ▪ This treatment is now *accepted* by many doctors. ▪ He refused to *accept* the decision. ▪ I *accepted* his advice and joined the health club. ▪ They *accepted* [=*believed*] her explanation. ▪ The theory is widely *accepted* as correct. = It is widely *accepted* that the theory is correct. **b :** to stop denying or resisting (something true or necessary) ▪ She found it difficult to *accept* change. ▪ The truth is sometimes hard to *accept*. ▪ He behaved badly, and now he has to *accept* the consequences. ▪ He has to ***accept the fact that*** his baseball career is over. [=he has to admit that his baseball career is over] ▪ He was unwilling to ***accept*** [=*believe*] ***that*** he could no longer play as he once had. **c :** to admit that you have or deserve (something, such as blame or responsibility) ▪ *accept* blame ▪ I *accept* responsibility for the accident. **d :** to be willing to have or experience (something) ▪ To be a successful investor you have to *accept* some risk. ▪ She *accepted* [=*took on, faced*] the challenge of starting her own business.
4 [+ *obj*] **a :** to allow (someone) to join a club, to attend a school, etc. ▪ The club *accepted* her as a member but rejected her sister. ▪ She was *accepted* at/by Georgetown University. **b :** to regard (someone) as belonging to a group ▪ She felt that her in-laws had never really *accepted* her (as a member of the family). ▪ She doesn't yet feel *accepted* (by her in-laws). ▪ The new family was quickly *accepted* into the community.
– **accepted** *adj* ▪ an *accepted* practice ▪ an *accepted* definition ▪ a widely *accepted* truth – **ac•cept•er** *or* **ac•cep•tor** /ɪk'sɛptɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ters** *or* **-tors** [*count*]

ac•cept•able /ɪk'sɛptəbəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]
1 : capable or worthy of being accepted ▪ *acceptable* and unacceptable noise levels ▪ an *acceptable* excuse ▪ socially *acceptable* behavior — sometimes + *to* ▪ We're trying to find a solution that will be *acceptable to* everyone.
2 : fairly good : SATISFACTORY ▪ It was an *acceptable* performance, although not an outstanding one. ▪ She plays an *acceptable* game of tennis.
– **ac•cept•abil•i•ty** /ɪk,sɛptə'bɪlətɪ/ *noun* [*noncount*] – **accept•ably** /ɪk'sɛptəblɪ/ *adv*

ac•cep•tance /ɪk'sɛptəns/ *noun* [*noncount*]
1 : the act of accepting something or someone ▪ *acceptance* of a gift ▪ *acceptance* of the truth ▪ *acceptance* of responsibility ▪ her *acceptance* into the club ▪ The university has sent me a letter of *acceptance*. ▪ He delivered an ***acceptance speech*** after he was chosen as the party's presidential nominee.
2 : the quality or state of being accepted or acceptable ▪ His theories have won/gained/found general/widespread *acceptance*. [=many people regard his theories as correct]

[1]ac•cess /'æk,sɛs/ *noun* [*noncount*]
1 : a way of getting near, at, or to something or someone ▪ All public buildings should provide wheelchair *access*. [=a way for people in wheelchairs to enter] ▪ The cup holders are placed for easy *access*. [=so that they can be easily reached] — often + *to* ▪ The town wants to increase public *access to* beaches. ▪ A dirt road provides *access to* the home.
2 : a way of being able to use or get something ▪ We have Internet *access* at the library. — usually + *to* ▪ We have *access to* the Internet at the library. ▪ I don't have *access to* a car right now. [=I don't have a car that I can use right now] ▪ Patients need better *access to* medical care. ▪ increasing children's *access to* education ▪ They tried to gain illegal *access to* the company's network. — see also ACCESS TIME
3 : permission or the right to enter, get near, or make use of something or to have contact with someone — usually + *to* ▪ They refused to give the police *access to* their home. ▪ divorced parents who want increased/improved *access to* their children ▪ Investigators are trying to ***gain/get access to*** his financial records. [=trying to get the right to see his financial

records] ▪ He was ***granted/denied access to*** the report. [=he was given/refused permission to see the report]

[2]access *verb* **-cess·es; -cessed; -cess·ing** [+ *obj*] : to gain access to (something): such as **a** : to be able to use, enter, or get near (something) ▪ The new system makes it easier to *access* the money in your bank account. ▪ Your favorite radio stations can be *accessed* at the touch of a button. **b** : to open or load (a computer file, an Internet site, etc.) ▪ The file loads every time you *access* the Web site. ▪ The file can be *accessed* by many users at the same time. ▪ She could work at home by remotely *accessing* the company's network. ▪ You'll need a password to *access* the database.

ac·ces·si·ble /ɪkˈsɛsəbəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]
1 : able to be reached or approached ▪ The inn is *accessible* by train and bus. ▪ The mall is *accessible* from the highway.
2 : able to be used or obtained — often + *to* ▪ The information should be *accessible* [=*available*] *to* all.
3 : easy to appreciate or understand ▪ His writing is more *accessible* now than it once was. [=is more easily understood now] ▪ It is a fascinating and *accessible* book. ▪ *accessible* art
4 *of a person* : easy to speak to or deal with ▪ You'll find that the teachers here are quite *accessible*.
– **ac·ces·si·bil·i·ty** /ɪkˌsɛsəˈbɪləti/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the easy *accessibility* of the beach ▪ the *accessibility* of her art
– **ac·ces·si·bly** /ɪkˈsɛsəbli/ *adv* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ He writes *accessibly* about complex topics.

ac·ces·sion /ɪkˈsɛʃən/ *noun, pl* **-sions** *formal*
1 [*noncount*] : the act or process by which someone rises to a powerful and important position ▪ the *accession* of Queen Elizabeth II — often + *to* ▪ Queen Victoria's *accession to* the crown/throne occurred in 1837. [=she became queen in 1837] ▪ upon his *accession to* the Supreme Court ▪ the king's *accession to* power
2 [*count*] : something that is added to a collection at a museum ▪ The museum has put its latest *accessions* [=*acquisitions*] on display.

ac·ces·so·rize (*US*) *or Brit* **ac·ces·so·rise** /ɪkˈsɛsəˌraɪz/ *verb* **-riz·es; -rized; -riz·ing** : to add accessories to (something, such as clothing) [+ *obj*] an outfit *accessorized* with a pair of diamond earrings [*no obj*] a stylish young woman who knows how to *accessorize*

ac·ces·so·ry /ɪkˈsɛsəri/ *noun, pl* **-ries** [*count*]
1 : something added to something else to make it more useful, attractive, or effective ▪ fashion/clothing *accessories* such as scarves, handkerchiefs, bracelets, and rings ▪ automotive *accessories* ▪ computer *accessories*
2 *law* : someone who helps another person commit a crime ▪ He is wanted as an *accessory* to murder. ▪ She was charged as an ***accessory before/after the fact*** [=someone who helps a criminal before/after a crime has been committed]

access time *noun* [*noncount*] *technical* : the time required to get stored information from a computer memory

ac·ci·dent /ˈæksədənt/ *noun, pl* **-dents** [*count*]
1 : a sudden event (such as a crash) that is not planned or intended and that causes damage or injury ▪ We got in a car *accident*. = We had a car *accident*. ▪ a traffic *accident* ▪ a fatal *accident* ▪ a motorcycle *accident* ▪ He was injured in an *accident* at work. ▪ The *accident* happened when her car slid on a patch of ice. ▪ Investigators are still trying to determine the cause of the *accident*. ▪ "I'm sorry that I broke the bowl." "That's OK. It was just an *accident*." = "That's OK. ***Accidents will happen***" ✧ An ***accident waiting to happen*** is a person or thing that is dangerous or unsafe. ▪ My brother is the clumsiest person I know. He's just an *accident waiting to happen*.
2 : an event that is not planned or intended : an event that occurs by chance ▪ Their meeting was an *accident*. ▪ It is just an *accident* that they arrived when they did. ▪ She says that her pregnancy was an *accident*. ▪ His wealth is a mere ***accident of birth*** [=he is wealthy only because he was born into a wealthy family] ▪ He says that no one is to blame for his illness. It was just an ***accident of nature*** [=something that happened naturally] ▪ It is ***no accident*** that the assistant he hired is so good-looking. [=he deliberately chose a good-looking person to be his assistant]
by accident : in a way that is not planned or intended ▪ They met *by accident*. [=*by chance*] ▪ She says that she became pregnant *by accident*. [=*unintentionally*] ▪ Scientists discovered the vaccine almost/quite/entirely *by accident*. ▪ Did it happen *by accident* [=*accidentally*] or by design?

ac·ci·den·tal /ˌæksəˈdɛntl̩/ *adj* : happening in a way that is not planned or intended : happening by accident ▪ an *accidental* discovery of oil ▪ The timing of the announcement was purely *accidental*. : happening as an accident ▪ an *accidental* shooting ▪ The death was ruled *accidental*.
– **ac·ci·den·tal·ly** /ˌæksəˈdɛntl̩i/ *adv* ▪ He *accidentally* deleted the file. ▪ The lock prevents the gate from opening *accidentally*. ▪ Did it happen *accidentally* [=*by accident*] or intentionally? ▪ He bumped into her ***accidentally on purpose*** [=he bumped into her on purpose but he tried to make it appear to be an accident]

accident–prone *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : tending to have many accidents ▪ He is clumsy and *accident-prone*.

[1]ac·claim /əˈkleɪm/ *noun* [*noncount*] : strong approval or praise ▪ Her performance in the ballet earned her critical *acclaim*. ▪ She deserves *acclaim* for all her charitable works.

[2]acclaim *verb* **-claims; -claimed; -claim·ing** [+ *obj*] : to praise (someone or something) in a very strong and enthusiastic way ▪ The critics have *acclaimed* her performance. — often used as *(be) acclaimed* ▪ Her performance *was acclaimed* by the critics. ▪ He has *been acclaimed* as one of the best players in the league.
– **acclaimed** *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ a critically *acclaimed* drama/performance ▪ a highly/hugely/widely *acclaimed* play ▪ the city's most *acclaimed* restaurants

ac·cla·ma·tion /ˌækləˈmeɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*]
1 : strong and enthusiastic approval or praise ▪ Her performance in the ballet earned her thunderous applause and shouts of *acclamation* from the audience. ▪ She has earned worldwide *acclamation* for her charitable works.
2 : a vote to accept or approve someone or something that is done by cheers, shouts, or applause — usually used in the phrase ***by acclamation*** ▪ The legislature passed the bill *by acclamation*. ▪ The president was elected *by acclamation*.

ac·cli·mate /ˈæklə̱ˌmeɪt, *Brit* əˈklaɪmət/ *verb* **-mates; -mat·ed; -mat·ing** *US* : to adjust or adapt to a new climate, place, or situation — usually + *to* [*no obj*] He was never really able to *acclimate to* the hot weather. [=to get used to the hot weather] ▪ The mountain climbers spent a few days *acclimating* [=becoming adjusted] *to* the high altitude. [+ *obj*] I *acclimated* myself *to* the hot weather. ▪ You might need to *acclimate* your plants *to* bright sunlight gradually. ▪ We took a few days to get *acclimated to* our new teacher.
– **ac·cli·ma·tion** /ˌæklə̱ˈmeɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*]

ac·cli·ma·tize *also Brit* **ac·cli·ma·tise** /əˈklaɪməˌtaɪz/ *verb* **-tiz·es; -tized; -tiz·ing** : to adjust or adapt to a new climate, place, or situation : ACCLIMATE — usually + *to* [*no obj*] The mountain climbers spent a few days *acclimatizing* [=becoming adjusted] *to* the high altitude. [+ *obj*] The mountain climbers spent a few days *acclimatizing* themselves *to* the high altitude.
– **ac·cli·ma·ti·za·tion** *also Brit* **ac·cli·ma·ti·sa·tion** /əˌklaɪmətəˈzeɪʃən, *Brit* əˌklaɪməˌtaɪˈzeɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*]

ac·co·lade /ˈækəˌleɪd/ *noun, pl* **-lades** [*count*] : an award or an expression of praise ▪ There is no higher *accolade* at this school than an honorary degree. — often plural ▪ She has been winning *accolades* [=she has been receiving praise] for her performances in small plays. ▪ The movie's special effects have drawn *accolades* from both fans and critics. [=have been praised by both fans and critics]

ac·com·mo·date /əˈkɑːməˌdeɪt/ *verb* **-dates; -dat·ed; -dat·ing**
1 [+ *obj*] **a** : to provide room for (someone) : to provide a place to stay and sleep for (someone) ▪ The hotel can only *accommodate* about 100 people. [=is only large enough for about 100 people] ▪ Over 600 people can be *accommodated* on the cruise ship. **b** : to have room for (someone or something) ▪ The ceilings were too low to *accommodate* his terrific height. ▪ The table *accommodates* [=*seats*] 12 comfortably. ▪ This ancient stadium could *accommodate* [=*hold*] up to 60,000 people.
2 [+ *obj*] *somewhat formal* : to do something helpful for (someone) ▪ They were kind enough to *accommodate* me with a ride to the train station. : to provide what is needed or wanted for (someone or something) ▪ I asked them for additional money, and they *accommodated* me with a loan. ▪ He would often change his schedule to *accommodate* his clients. ▪ New facilities are being added to *accommodate* the special needs of elderly residents.
3 : to get used to or become comfortable with something : to adapt or adjust *to* something [*no obj*] Smart investors quickly *accommodated to* the new market conditions. [+ *obj*] Smart investors quickly ***accommodated themselves to*** the new market conditions. = Smart investors quickly be-

came *accommodated to* the new market conditions.

accommodating *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : willing to do what someone else wants or requests ▪ The chef can be very *accommodating* [=*obliging*], often cooking meals that aren't even on the menu. ▪ She seems less *accommodating* to the demands of her boss than she used to be.

ac·com·mo·da·tion /əˌkɑːməˈdeɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions**

1 a ***accommodations*** [*plural*] *US* : a place (such as a room in a hotel) where travelers can sleep and find other services ▪ We need overnight *accommodations* [=*lodging*] for four people. ▪ They weren't sure if they could provide food and *accommodations* for the whole group. ▪ The *accommodations* on board the boat are a bit cramped. **b** [*noncount*] *chiefly Brit* : a place where people can live, stay, or work ▪ We need overnight *accommodation* [=*lodging*] for four people. ▪ office *accommodation*

2 *formal* **a** : an agreement that allows people, groups, etc., to work together [*singular*] He hoped to reach an *accommodation* with the new owners. [*noncount*] Negotiators were convinced that *accommodation* with the union was possible. **b** : something done to provide what is needed or wanted for someone or something [*singular*] He changed his schedule as an *accommodation* to his clients. [*noncount*] Changes were made for the *accommodation* of differing viewpoints.

ac·com·pa·ni·ment /əˈkʌmpənimənt/ *noun, pl* **-ments**

1 : music played to support a person who is singing or playing a musical instrument [*noncount*] She sings without musical *accompaniment*. [*count*] — usually singular ▪ She sang the song with a piano *accompaniment*. ▪ She sang the song ***to the accompaniment of*** a piano. [=while a piano played]

2 [*count*] : something that is added to another thing to make it better or more appealing ▪ A nice tie was a fine *accompaniment* to his new suit.; *especially* : something added to or served with food or a meal ▪ This dish can be served as an *accompaniment* to/for most meat main dishes. ▪ This wine is a good *accompaniment* for/of spicy foods.

3 [*count*] : something that is done or that happens at the same time as something else ▪ She studied Italian as an *accompaniment* to her classes in art history. ▪ She made the announcement ***to the accompaniment of*** loud applause. [=there was loud applause while she made the announcement]

ac·com·pa·nist /əˈkʌmpənɪst/ *noun, pl* **-nists** [*count*] : someone who plays a musical instrument while another person is singing or playing the main part : someone who plays an accompaniment ▪ He will be her *accompanist* on the piano.

ac·com·pa·ny /əˈkʌmpəni/ *verb* **-nies; -nied; -ny·ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to go somewhere with (someone) : to be a companion for (someone) ▪ She will *accompany* me to the store. ▪ Ten adults *accompanied* the class on their field trip. ▪ Children under 17 must be *accompanied* by an adult to see this movie.

2 a : to go together with (something) : to be included with (something) ▪ A delicious sauce *accompanied* the grilled fish. — often used as *(be) accompanied* ▪ The text *is accompanied* by over 100 photographs and charts. **b** : to happen or occur at the same time as or along with (something) — usually used as *(be) accompanied* ▪ Low rates of unemployment *are often accompanied* by high inflation. ▪ The thunderstorm *was accompanied* by high winds.

3 : to play music with (someone who is singing or playing the main tune) : to perform an accompaniment for (someone) ▪ He will be *accompanying* her on the piano.

– **accompanying** *adj* ▪ Call the phone number in the *accompanying* booklet for further information.

accompli see FAIT ACCOMPLI

ac·com·plice /əˈkɑːmpləs/ *noun, pl* **-plic·es** [*count*] : a person who works with or helps someone who is doing something wrong or illegal ▪ He was convicted as an *accomplice* to murder. ▪ a murderer's *accomplice* ▪ She was an unwitting *accomplice* to tax fraud. [=she didn't know that she was helping someone to commit tax fraud]

ac·com·plish /əˈkɑːmplɪʃ/ *verb* **-plish·es; -plished; -plish·ing** [+ *obj*] : to succeed in doing (something) ▪ They have *accomplished* [=*done, achieved*] much in a very short period of time. ▪ He finally felt like he had *accomplished* [=*done*] something important. ▪ There are several different ways to *accomplish* the same task. ▪ It's amazing what you can *accomplish* [=*do*] through/with hard work. ▪ Exactly what he thought he would *accomplish* is unclear.

– **ac·com·plish·able** /əˈkʰɑmplɪʃəbəɬ/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

accomplished *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

1 : very skillful : having or showing the skill of an expert ▪ an *accomplished* [=*expert*] pianist/artist/writer ▪ She has the confidence of an *accomplished* athlete. ▪ an *accomplished* [=*excellent*] performance

2 : very successful : having done or achieved many good or important things ▪ He is one of the school's most *accomplished* graduates.

ac·com·plish·ment /əˈkɑːmplɪʃmənt/ *noun, pl* **-ments**

1 [*count*] : something done, achieved, or accomplished successfully ▪ Her family is proud of all her academic *accomplishments*. ▪ one of the greatest scientific *accomplishments* of the century

2 [*noncount*] : the successful completion of something : the act of accomplishing something ▪ We celebrated the *accomplishment* of all our goals. ▪ When the work was done, he had a sense of *accomplishment*. [=he felt that he had done something good] ▪ a public official with a solid record of *accomplishment* [=of doing good things successfully]

3 : a special skill or ability gained by practice or training [*count*] Her knowledge of foreign languages is among her many *accomplishments*. [*noncount*] a young woman of *accomplishment* [=an accomplished young woman]

[1]ac·cord /əˈkoəd/ *noun, pl* **-cords**

1 [*count*] : a formal or official agreement ▪ The two sides were able to reach an *accord*. ▪ a peace *accord*

2 [*noncount*] : a situation or state in which people or things agree ▪ His ideas and mine were completely/fully ***in accord***. = His ideas were completely/fully ***in accord with*** mine. [=his ideas and mine agreed completely] ▪ They dressed up for the festival *in accord with* [=*in accordance with*] the custom.

of its own accord ✧ If something happens *of its own accord*, it happens by itself without anyone causing it to happen. ▪ The tree fell *of its own accord*.

of your own accord ✧ If you do something *of your own accord*, you do it because you want to, not because someone has asked you or forced you to do it. ▪ They left *of their own accord*.

with one accord *chiefly Brit, formal* : all together ▪ They rose *with one accord* from their seats.

[2]accord *verb* **-cords; -cord·ed; -cord·ing** [+ *obj*] *formal* : to give (something, such as special treatment or status) to someone or something ▪ He was *accorded* certain favors because of his age. ▪ Her students *accorded* her respect. = Her students *accorded* respect to her. = She was *accorded* respect by her students. ▪ We *accord* great importance to education. [=we treat education as very important]

accord with [*phrasal verb*] ***accord with (something)*** : to be in agreement with (something) ▪ His interpretation of the data did not *accord with* the facts. ▪ His plans for the company did not *accord with* my own.

ac·cor·dance /əˈkoədn̩s/ *noun*

in accordance with : in a way that agrees with or follows (something, such as a rule or request) ▪ *In accordance with* your request, I am sending a copy of my book. ▪ His funeral will be private, *in accordance with* his wishes. ▪ The soldier said that he acted *in accordance with* his orders.

ac·cord·ing·ly /əˈkoədɪŋli/ *adv*

1 : in a proper or appropriate way : in a way that suits the facts, needs, or requirements of a situation ▪ He knew his limitations and acted *accordingly*. ▪ She is considered a manager and is paid *accordingly*. ▪ The car is made with the best materials and is priced *accordingly*.

2 : as a result : THEREFORE ▪ His campaign manager wanted to find out how people felt. *Accordingly* [=*consequently*], he took an opinion poll of the local voters.

according to *prep*

1 : as stated, reported, or recorded by (someone or something) ▪ *According to* a recent survey, most Americans drive to work. [=a recent survey says that most Americans drive to work] ▪ *According to* rumors I've heard, he was fired for stealing from the company.

2 : as directed or required by (rules, directions, etc.) ▪ She always did everything *according to* the rules. ▪ I cooked the rice *according to* the directions on the box. ▪ Everything went ***according to plan***. [=everything went as it had been planned]

3 : in a way that is based on (something) ▪ He arranged the books on the shelf *according to* [=*by*] their size. ▪ He was paid *according to* how quickly he worked.

ac•cor•di•on /əˈkoədijən/ *noun, pl* **-ons** [*count*] : a musical instrument that is shaped like a box and that is held in your hands and played by pulling its sides apart and then pushing them together while pressing buttons and keys
– **ac•cor•di•on•ist** /əˈkoədijənɪst/ *noun, pl* **-ists** [*count*]



accordion

ac•cost /əˈkɑːst/ *verb* **-costs**; **-cost•ed**; **-cost•ing** [+ *obj*] : to approach and speak to (someone) often in an angry, aggressive, or unwanted way • He was *accosted* by three gang members on the subway. • She was so famous that people would *accost* her on the street and ask for an autograph.

[1]ac•count /əˈkaʊnt/ *noun, pl* **-counts**
1 a [*count*] : a record of money that has been paid and money that has been received : BILL • the difference between the debit and credit sides of an *account* — see also EXPENSE ACCOUNT **b** ***accounts*** [*plural*] : records of income and expenses • We always keep very good *accounts*. • an *accounts* department • The company's *accounts* show a profit this year: our ***accounts receivable*** exceed our ***accounts payable***. [=the money owed to us exceeds the money we owe]
2 [*count*] : an arrangement in which a bank keeps a record of the money that a person puts in and takes out of the bank • We opened new *accounts* at a bank last week. • I took out my money and closed my *account*. • You can withdraw up to $1,000 a day from your *account*. • Every week, she puts/deposits a part of her paycheck into a separate *account*. • setting up a ***bank account*** • My wife and I keep our money in a ***joint account***. [=an account that both of us can use] — often used before another noun • Please enter your name and *account* number. • You can check your *account* balance [=the amount of money in your account] on the Internet. — see also CHECKING ACCOUNT, SAVINGS ACCOUNT
3 [*count*] : a company's record of the products or services used by a customer and of the money that the customer owes or has paid to the company • I don't have the money right now. Put it on my *account*. = Charge it to my *account*. • If you return the clothes, the store will credit your *account*. [=you will not have to pay for the clothes] • When do you intend to ***settle your account***? [=pay what you owe] — see also CHARGE ACCOUNT, CREDIT ACCOUNT ✧ In figurative use, to ***settle an account*** or to ***settle accounts with*** someone is to do something that brings a final end to an argument, disagreement, etc. • She's decided to *settle accounts with* her old political rivals.
4 [*count*] : a business arrangement in which a person or company regularly buys products or services from a particular company • She makes sure that all of the company's *accounts* [=*customers, clients*] make the necessary payments. • We just lost the Smith *account*. • That company was one of our biggest/best *accounts*. • She will be our ***account manager***. [=the person who manages our account]
5 [*count*] : an arrangement in which a person uses the Internet or e-mail services of a particular company • I use two separate e-mail *accounts*.
6 [*count*] : a description of an event or situation : a story or report about something • personal/firsthand/eyewitness *accounts* from the war • According to one *account*, the party was a complete disaster. — often + *of* • She gave the police a full/complete/detailed *account of* what happened. • We read an *account of* her trip to Paris. • a written *account of* his long and successful career
7 [*count*] : a list or description of facts • Our goal is to give an accurate *account* of the process. • an *account* of how the system works • The document is an *account* of the country's reasons for going to war.
8 [*count*] : a reason or explanation for an action • You will be asked to give an *account* of your actions. [=to explain the reasons for your actions] • He could give no *account* of what he did with the money. — often used in the formal phrase ***on that account*** • I hope we won't lose our friendship *on that account*. [=for that reason]
9 [*noncount*] *formal* : value or importance — used in the phrases ***of no account*** and ***of little account*** • He felt that his opinions were *of no account* to the others. [=he thought that the other people didn't care about his opinions] • It's *of little account* what I may think about it. — see also NO-ACCOUNT
bring/call (someone) to account : to require (someone) to explain and accept punishment or criticism for bad or wrong behavior • He was *called to account* by his boss for failing to spot the mistake in the company's records.
by/from all accounts : according to all of the different descriptions of something • *By all accounts*, the band put on a great show. [=everyone says that the band put on a great show] • She was, *by all accounts*, good at her job. • They seemed, *from all accounts*, to have a happy marriage.
by your own account : according to what you have said about your own life or experiences • *By her own account*, that was the worst performance of her career. [=she said that was her worst performance] • They had, *by their own account*, a wonderful time.
give a good account of yourself : to perform well especially in a competition • If I ever had to fight, I think I could *give a good account of myself*.
on account of : because of : for the reason of • The game was canceled *on account of* the rain. • They were treated badly *on account of* their beliefs. • *On account of* his bad behavior, he will not be allowed to play with the new toy.
on no account *or* ***not on any account*** *chiefly Brit* : for no reason : under no circumstances — used to say that something will not or should not happen • *On no account* should the children be left at home alone. • They said that *on no account* would they leave before the end of the game.
on someone's account : because of someone : in order to please someone • Don't leave *on our account*. [=because of us] • You didn't have to clean your room *on my account*. I don't care if your room is dirty.
on your own account **1** : by yourself : on your own : without the help of others • She bought the house entirely *on her own account*. • He left the company and went into business *on his own account*. **2** : for your own sake : in order to make a situation good for yourself • I'm doing it *on my own account*, not for anyone else.
take (something) into account *or* ***take account of (something)*** : to think about (something) before doing something (such as making a decision) : CONSIDER • Try to *take* our feelings *into account*. [=try to think about how we will feel] • Other issues must be *taken into account* before a choice can be made. • She did very well on the test when you *take into account* how little she studied. • She *takes no account of* my feelings. [=she doesn't consider how I feel] • The new health plan fails to *take account of* the fact that many people cannot pay for their medicine.
turn (something) to (good) account *formal* : to gain or profit from (something) : to take advantage of (something) • Is there a way to *turn* this situation *to good account*?

[2]account *verb* **-counts**; **-count•ed**; **-count•ing** [+ *obj*] *formal* : to think of (someone or something) in a specified way — usually used as *(be) accounted* • Their first project *was accounted* [=*considered*] a success.
account for [*phrasal verb*] **1** ***account for (something)*** **a** : to give a reason or explanation for (something) • Eventually, you will need to *account for* your actions/behavior. • How do you *account for* [=*explain*] your success? ✧ The informal saying ***there's no accounting for taste*** means that there is no way to understand why some people like something while other people do not. • I don't see why they liked the movie, but *there's no accounting for taste*. **b** : to be the cause of (something) • The disease *accounted for* over 10,000 deaths last year. • These new features *account for* the computer's higher price. • The disease cannot be *accounted for* [=*explained*] by genetics alone. There must be other causes as well. **c** : to make up or form (a part of something) • Women *account for* [=*constitute, compose*] only 25 percent of our employees. **d** *US* : to think about (something) before doing something : to take (something) into consideration • The researchers failed to *account for* the fact that most of the students were poor. **2** ***account for (someone or something)*** **a** : to show what happened to (someone or something) • We have to *account for* the time [=to say how much time] we spend on each activity. • I'll have to *account for* the money I spent. : to know the location of (someone or something) • The government couldn't *account for* millions of dollars of the taxpayers' money. • Is everyone *accounted for*? [=do we know where everyone is?] • ***All present and accounted for***. [=everyone who is supposed to be here is here] **b** : to destroy or kill (someone or something) • Enemy fighters have *accounted for* most of our bombers, Sir; *also, chiefly Brit* : to defeat or beat (someone or something) • We *accounted for* [=*dispatched*] the challengers 3–2.

A

ac•count•able /ə'kaʊntəbəl/ *adj, not used before a noun*
1 : required to explain actions or decisions to someone — usually + *to* ▪ Political leaders need to be *accountable to* the people they represent. ▪ a powerful businessman who seems to think that he's *accountable* [=*answerable*] *to* no one
2 : required to be responsible for something ▪ If anything goes wrong I will hold you personally *accountable*! — often + *for* ▪ They hold you *accountable for* your mistakes. ▪ Each child is *accountable* [=*responsible*] *for* his or her own behavior.
– **ac•count•abil•i•ty** /əˌkʰæʊntə'bɪlərɪ/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ We now have greater *accountability* in the department. [=people in the department can now be held more responsible for what happens] ▪ corporate *accountability*

ac•coun•tant /ə'kaʊntn̩t/ *noun, pl* **-tants** [*count*] : someone whose job is to keep the financial records of a business or person

ac•count•ing /ə'kaʊntɪŋ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the skill, system, or job of keeping the financial records of a business or person — often used before another noun ▪ an *accounting* firm ▪ traditional *accounting* methods

ac•cou•tred *or* **ac•cou•tered** /ə'ku:tərd/ *adj, literary* : provided with equipment or clothing ▪ The knight's horse was properly *accoutred* for battle.

ac•cou•tre•ment *or US* **ac•cou•ter•ment** /ə'ku:trəmənt, ə'ku:tərmənt/ *noun, pl* **-ments** [*count*] : a piece of clothing or equipment that is used in a particular place or for a particular activity — usually plural ▪ The room had a fully stocked bar and all the *accoutrements* of a first-class hotel.

ac•cred•it /ə'krɛdət/ *verb* **-its**; **-it•ed**; **-it•ing** [+ *obj*]
1 : to say that something is good enough to be given official approval ▪ The association only *accredits* programs that meet its high standards. ▪ The program was *accredited* by the American Dental Association.
2 : to give (someone) credit for something : CREDIT ▪ The invention of scuba gear is *accredited* to Jacques Cousteau.
3 : to send (someone, such as an ambassador) to act as an official representative ▪ *accredit* an ambassador to France
– **ac•cred•i•ta•tion** /əˌkrɛdə'teɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ The school/hospital lost its *accreditation*. ▪ the *accreditation* of an ambassador – **accredited** *adj* ▪ an *accredited* college/hospital ▪ She was enrolled at an *accredited* law school.

ac•cre•tion /ə'kri:ʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions**
1 [*noncount*] : a gradual process in which layers of a material are formed as small amounts are added over time ▪ rocks formed by the slow *accretion* of limestone — often used figuratively ▪ The gradual *accretion* of detail creates a complex and moving story.
2 [*count*] : something that has grown or accumulated slowly : a product or result of gradual growth ▪ strangely shaped limestone *accretions* ▪ There was an *accretion* of ice on the car's windshield.

ac•crue /ə'kru:/ *verb* **-crues**; **-crued**; **-cru•ing** *formal*
1 : to increase in value or amount gradually as time passes : to grow or build up slowly [*no obj*] I'll get back all the money I invested, plus any interest and dividends that have *accrued*. — often + *to* ▪ interest and dividends that have *accrued to* me [+ *obj*] investments that have *accrued* interest and dividends
2 [*no obj*] : to come to or be given to someone — usually + *to* ▪ the advantages/benefits that *accrue to* us [=that we receive] as members of a free society
– **ac•cru•al** /ə'kru:wəl/ *noun, pl* **-als** [*count*] an *accrual* of interest [*noncount*] money gained by *accrual* of interest – **accrued** *adj* ▪ I'll get back all the money I invested, plus any *accrued* interest and dividends.

ac•cu•mu•late /ə'kju:mjəˌleɪt/ *verb* **-lates**; **-lat•ed**; **-lat•ing**
1 [+ *obj*] : to gather or acquire (something) gradually as time passes ▪ She has slowly *accumulated* [=*amassed*] a fortune. ▪ You can *accumulate* [=*earn*] bonus points by participating in surveys. ▪ The police have been *accumulating* [=*collecting*] evidence of his guilt.
2 [*no obj*] : to increase gradually in amount as time passes ▪ A large amount of debris has *accumulated* [=*collected*] at the construction site. ▪ Evidence of his guilt is *accumulating*.
– **ac•cu•mu•la•tion** /əˌkju:mjə'leɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** [*noncount*] the *accumulation* of evidence against him [*count*] The company's goal was a slow, steady *accumulation* of profits. ▪ The disease is caused by *accumulations of* fat in the kidneys.

ac•cu•mu•la•tive /ə'kju:mjələtɪv/ *adj* : growing or increasing over time : CUMULATIVE ▪ The *accumulative* effect of his injuries forced him to retire.

ac•cu•ra•cy /'ækjərəsi/ *noun*
1 : freedom from mistake or error : the quality or state of being accurate : CORRECTNESS [*noncount*] Each experiment is performed twice to ensure *accuracy*. ▪ The police questioned the *accuracy* of his statement. ▪ He could not say with any *accuracy* what he had seen. [*singular*] She shot free throws with an *accuracy* of 80 percent. [=80 percent of her free throws were accurate/successful]
2 [*noncount*] : the ability to work or perform without making mistakes ▪ Several managers have tried to increase the speed and *accuracy* of the workers.

ac•cu•rate /'ækjərət/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]
1 : free from mistakes or errors ▪ The model is *accurate* down to the tiniest details. ▪ an *accurate* account/record/report/description ▪ Her novel is historically *accurate*. ▪ He needed a more *accurate* [=*precise*] term to describe the procedure. ▪ an *accurate* throw/shot [=a throw/shot that does not miss its target] — opposite INACCURATE
2 : able to produce results that are correct : not making mistakes ▪ an *accurate* reporter ▪ an *accurate* measuring device ▪ The machines were not yet *accurate* enough to give useful results. — opposite INACCURATE
– **ac•cu•rate•ly** *adv* ▪ It is very difficult to *accurately* predict the weather. ▪ The book's title does not *accurately* reflect its subject.

ac•cursed /ə'kɚst, ə'kɚsəd/ *adj, old-fashioned*
1 : having very bad luck : placed under a curse ▪ an *accursed* [=*cursed*] team that can't seem to win a game
2 : very bad : greatly or strongly disliked ▪ I couldn't wait to get out of that *accursed* [=*cursed, damned*] place.

ac•cu•sa•tion /ˌækjə'zeɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** : a claim that someone has done something wrong or illegal : a charge that someone has committed a fault or crime [*count*] Investigators have made/brought/leveled *accusations* of corruption against a group of former officials. ▪ The police are investigating serious *accusations* of wrongdoing. ▪ He denied/rejected the *accusation* that he had lied to the police. ▪ a false *accusation* [*noncount*] There was a hint/tone of *accusation* in his voice when he asked her where she had been.

ac•cu•sa•tive /ə'kʰju:zətɪv/ *noun* [*noncount*] *grammar* : the form of a noun or pronoun when it is the direct object of a verb or the object of a preposition ▪ a noun in the *accusative* — called also *objective*; compare NOMINATIVE
– **accusative** *adj* ▪ the *accusative* case

ac•cu•sa•to•ry /ə'kju:zəˌtori, *Brit* ə'kju:zətri/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : accusing or blaming someone : assigning blame or fault ▪ He pointed an *accusatory* finger at the suspect. ▪ The book has a harsh, *accusatory* tone.

ac•cuse /ə'kju:z/ *verb* **-cus•es**; **-cused**; **-cus•ing** [+ *obj*] : to blame (someone) for something wrong or illegal : to say that someone is guilty of a fault or crime ▪ He was unjustly *accused*. — often + *of* ▪ He was *accused of* stealing the money. ▪ His children have *accused* him *of* neglect. ▪ You can't *accuse* him *of* being rude: he's always extremely polite. ▪ She has been *accused of* murder. = She ***stands accused of*** murder. — sometimes used humorously ▪ No one could ever *accuse* him *of* being overly modest. [=he is not modest]
– **ac•cus•er** *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] ▪ She deserves the chance to meet/confront her *accuser*. – **accusing** *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ She gave him a very *accusing* look. ▪ The governor ***pointed an accusing finger at*** the legislature [=said the legislature was to blame] for failing to approve her budget.
– **ac•cus•ing•ly** /ə'kʰju:zɪŋli/ *adv* ▪ She looked at him *accusingly*. ▪ "What did you do?" he asked *accusingly*.

accused *noun*
the accused : a person who is charged with a crime ▪ *The accused* was found not guilty. : a group of people who are charged with a crime ▪ *The accused* were found not guilty.

ac•cus•tom /ə'kʌstəm/ *verb* **-toms**; **-tomed**; **-tom•ing** [+ *obj*] : to cause (someone) to become adjusted to or familiar with something — + *to* ▪ trying to gradually *accustom* the students *to* their new surroundings ▪ The time he spent in the army has *accustomed* him *to* rising early in the morning. ▪ He'll have to ***accustom himself to*** life in a new country. [=he will have to become adjusted to life in a new country]

ac•cus•tomed /ə'kʌstəmd/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]
1 : familiar with something so that it seems normal or usual — + *to* ▪ She is *accustomed to* [=*used to*] life/living on the farm. ▪ We have become/grown/gotten more *accustomed to* their traditions and routines. ▪ He is *accustomed to* doing

what he wants to do. [=he usually does what he wants to do]
2 *always used before a noun, formal* : usual or regular ▪ at her *accustomed* [=*customary*] lunch hour ▪ She arrived early enough to get her *accustomed* seat in the front row.

[1]ace /ˈeɪs/ *noun, pl* **ac•es** [*count*]
1 : a playing card with one large figure in its center that can be the card with either the highest or lowest value ▪ the *ace* of spades/diamonds/hearts/clubs — see picture at PLAYING CARD
2 : a person who is very skilled at something ▪ a computer *ace* ▪ the *ace* of the team's pitching staff [=the best pitcher on the team] — often used before another noun ▪ an *ace* mechanic/reporter
3 : a point scored on a serve that an opponent fails to hit in tennis ▪ She won the match by scoring more than 30 *aces*.
4 *US* : a score of one on a hole in golf : HOLE IN ONE ▪ He got/shot/scored an *ace* on the eighth hole.
an ace in the hole (*US*) *or chiefly Brit* ***an ace up your sleeve*** ✧ If you have *an ace in the hole* or *an ace up your sleeve*, you have a powerful and often secret weapon, advantage, etc., that you can use if it is needed. ▪ The mayor's popularity among elderly voters gives him an *ace in the hole* for the coming election.
hold all the aces : to have a strong advantage over others in a contest, competition, etc. ▪ As the strike continues into its second week, it appears that the company *holds all the aces* in its negotiations with the strikers.
within an ace of *informal* : very near to (doing something) ▪ They were/came *within an ace of* winning the championship. [=they almost won the championship]

[2]ace *verb* **aces**; **aced**; **ac•ing** [+ *obj*]
1 *US, informal* : to earn a very high grade on (an examination) : to get a grade of A on (an examination) ▪ He *aced* the test. ▪ She *aced* her entrance exams. : to perform very well on (a test or challenge) ▪ He *aced* his annual physical.
2 : to score an ace against (an opponent in tennis) ▪ He *aced* his opponent on the last point of the match.
3 *US* : to score an ace on (a hole in golf) ▪ She *aced* the 14th hole. [=she had a hole in one on the 14th hole]

acer•bic /əˈsəbɪk/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *somewhat formal* : expressing harsh or sharp criticism in a clever way ▪ *acerbic* comedy ▪ an *acerbic* playwright ▪ the film's most *acerbic* critics ▪ his *acerbic* wit
– **acer•bi•cal•ly** /əˈsəbɪkli/ *adv*

acet•amin•o•phen /əˌsiːtəˈmɪnəfən/ *noun* [*noncount*] *US* : a medicine that is used to relieve pain and fever

acet•y•lene /əˈsɛtḷən/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a gas that burns with a very hot flame which is used to melt and connect pieces of metal

[1]ache /ˈeɪk/ *verb* **aches**; **ached**; **ach•ing** [*no obj*]
1 : to produce a dull continuous pain : to hurt in a way that is constant but not severe ▪ Her muscles were *aching* from shoveling snow. ▪ After running the marathon, his body *ached* for a week. ▪ The candy's so sweet that it makes my teeth *ache*. — often used figuratively ▪ His heart *ached* [=he felt sad and sorry] for the children begging on the streets.
2 : to want or desire something or someone very much — often + *for* ▪ After years of war, most people are *aching* [=*longing, yearning*] *for* peace. ▪ Her heart *ached for* him. — often followed by *to* + *verb* ▪ I've been *aching to see* you.

[2]ache *noun, pl* **aches** [*count*] : a pain that is not sharp but continues for a long time ▪ He had a dull *ache* in his back from lifting boxes all day. ▪ muscle *aches* — often used in combination with parts of the body ▪ a head*ache* ▪ a stomach*ache* ▪ tooth*aches* — often used figuratively ▪ She looked through the old pictures with a dull *ache* in her heart. ✧ ***Aches and pains*** are many small pains that happen at the same time and make people feel uncomfortable. ▪ Symptoms of the flu include fever, general *aches and pains*, and sore throat. ▪ the many *aches and pains* of old age
– **achy** /ˈeɪki/ *adj* **ach•i•er**; **-est** ▪ My feet are tired and *achy* from walking all day.

achieve /əˈʧiːv/ *verb* **achieves**; **achieved**; **achiev•ing**
1 [+ *obj*] : to get or reach (something) by working hard ▪ This year, our company was able to *achieve* [=*accomplish, attain*] all of its production goals. ▪ He worked hard and *achieved* success. [=became successful] ▪ a diet that *achieves* dramatic results ▪ With much practice, she has *achieved* a high level of skill. ▪ They *achieved* high scores on their math tests.
2 [*no obj*] : to become successful : to reach a goal ▪ We give students the skills they need in order to *achieve* in college.
– **achiev•able** /əˈʧiːvəbəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ *achievable* goals

achieve•ment /əˈʧiːvmənt/ *noun, pl* **-ments**
1 [*count*] : something that has been done or achieved through effort : a result of hard work ▪ The discovery of DNA was a major scientific *achievement*. ▪ It was a great/extraordinary/remarkable *achievement*. ▪ Getting the project done on time was a real *achievement*.
2 [*noncount*] : the act of achieving something ▪ a high level of artistic *achievement* [=*accomplishment*] : the state or condition of having achieved or accomplished something ▪ Tests measure students' academic *achievement*. [=measure how much the students have learned] ▪ The students were awarded (with) certificates of *achievement*. [=documents saying that they reached an academic goal] ▪ Repairing the car by himself gave him a real ***sense of achievement*** [=a proud feeling of having done something difficult and worthwhile]

achiev•er /əˈʧiːvɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : a person who achieves success : a successful person ▪ Both of his brothers are *achievers*. = Both his brothers are ***high achievers***. [=both his brothers are hardworking and successful] ▪ a ***low achiever*** [=an unsuccessful person who does not work hard] — see also OVERACHIEVER, UNDERACHIEVER

Achil•les' heel /əˈkɪliz-/ *noun, pl* ~ **heels** [*count*] : a fault or weakness that causes or could cause someone or something to fail ▪ I'm trying to lose weight, but ice cream is my *Achilles' heel*. ▪ This year, the team's *Achilles' heel* is its pitching. [=the team could fail because of its poor pitching]

Achilles tendon *noun, pl* ~ **-dons** [*count*] *medical* : the body part that joins the muscles of the lower leg to the bone of the heel

achoo /əˈʧuː/ *interj* — used to represent the sound of a sneeze

[1]ac•id /ˈæsəd/ *noun, pl* **acids**
1 *chemistry* : a chemical with a sour taste that forms a salt when mixed with a base [*count*] the *acids* in your stomach [*noncount*] the kinds of *acid* found in your stomach ✧ An acid has a pH of less than 7. Very strong acids are able to burn holes in things. — compare [1]BASE 6, PH
2 [*noncount*] *slang* : LSD ▪ His friend ***dropped acid*** [=took LSD] at the concert.

[2]acid *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]
1 *always used before a noun* : of, relating to, or having the qualities of an acid ▪ He washes his windows with an *acid* solution of vinegar and water. ▪ an *acid* [=*sour*] taste ▪ This kind of plant grows well in *acid* [=*acidic*] soil. ▪ Their pizza gives me ***acid indigestion***. [=a burning feeling in the stomach]
2 : sharp, strong, and critical in tone ▪ He made some very *acid* [=*biting, caustic*] comments. ▪ *acid* remarks
– **acid•i•ty** /əˈsɪdəti/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ They measured the *acidity* of the soil. ▪ the *acidity* [=*tartness, sourness*] of lemon juice – **ac•id•ly** *adv* ▪ She *acidly* refers to her former husband as "that little man."

acid•ic /əˈsɪdɪk/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]
1 : having a very sour or sharp taste ▪ an *acidic* sauce/wine
2 : containing acid ▪ The soil in our garden is very *acidic*. ▪ the *acidic* water of a polluted lake — compare ALKALINE

acid•i•fy /əˈsɪdəˌfaɪ/ *verb* **-fies**; **-fied**; **-fy•ing** *technical* : to cause (something) to become acidic [+ *obj*] Pollution *acidified* the soil. [*no obj*] Pollution caused the soil to *acidify*.
– **acid•i•fi•ca•tion** /əˌsɪdəfəˈkeɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*]

acid rain *noun* [*noncount*] : rain that contains dangerous chemicals because of smoke from cars and factories ▪ trees damaged by *acid rain*

acid test *noun* [*singular*] : a difficult situation or task that shows if someone or something is good enough to succeed ▪ The new team faced its first *acid test* when it played the national champions. — compare LITMUS TEST

ac•knowl•edge /ɪkˈnɑːlɪʤ/ *verb* **-edg•es**; **-edged**; **-edg•ing** [+ *obj*]
1 : to say that you accept or do not deny the truth or existence of (something) : ADMIT ▪ They *acknowledged* that the decision was a mistake. ▪ Do you *acknowledge* that you caused this mess? ▪ I *acknowledge* (the fact) that I hurt you, and for that I am sorry. ▪ They readily/openly/grudgingly *acknowledged* their mistake. ▪ She won't *acknowledge* responsibility for her actions. ▪ He refuses to *acknowledge* the authority of the court. [=he denies that the court has authority]
2 : to regard or describe (someone or something) as having or deserving a particular status ▪ They *acknowledge* him as their leader. = They *acknowledge* him to be their leader. — usually used as *(be) acknowledged* ▪ She *is* widely/generally *acknowledged* as one of the world's best chefs. [=many people regard her as one of the world's best chefs] ▪ Her pastries

A

are acknowledged to be the best. ▪ This part of the city *is acknowledged* to have the best restaurants.

3 : to tell or show someone that something (such as a letter or message) has been received ▪ He quickly *acknowledges* all of my e-mails when he receives them. ▪ Please *acknowledge* receipt of this letter. ▪ She *acknowledged* the gift with a card. ▪ She *acknowledged* his greeting with a smile.

4 : to show that someone has been seen and recognized : to look at or talk to (someone) ▪ She walked right by me without even *acknowledging* me. ▪ The players *acknowledged* their fans by waving their hands and blowing kisses into the crowd. ▪ He refuses to ***acknowledge her existence/presence***.

5 : to express thanks or appreciation for (something or someone) ▪ In their paper, they *acknowledge* the important work done by past scholars. ▪ They *acknowledge* past scholars for the important work they have done.

– **acknowledged** *adj* ▪ the *acknowledged* leader of a political party ▪ an *acknowledged* master of the art

ac·knowl·edg·ment *also* **ac·knowl·edge·ment** /ɪkˈnɑːlɪʤmənt/ *noun, pl* **-ments**

1 : the act of acknowledging something or someone: such as **a** : the act of showing that you know, admit, or accept that something exists or is true [*count*] The killer's apology was an *acknowledgment* [=*admission*] of his guilt. = The killer's apology was an *acknowledgment* that he was guilty. ▪ The day passed without any *acknowledgment* that it was their wedding anniversary. [=no one mentioned that it was their wedding anniversary] ▪ They made several public *acknowledgments* of their company's mistake. [*noncount*] He paid the fine without *acknowledgment* of his guilt. **b** : the act of praising or thanking someone for an action or achievement [*count*] Special *acknowledgments* will be made at the end of the meeting. [*noncount*] He has finally received the *acknowledgment* he deserves for his charitable work. ▪ They presented him with an award ***in acknowledgment of*** his charitable work.

2 *acknowledgments* [*plural*] : a section of a book, article, etc., in which people are thanked for their help ▪ He's the first person mentioned in the book's *acknowledgments*.

3 [*count*] : a usually written statement saying that a letter or message was received ▪ We sent an *acknowledgment* that we received their letter. ▪ He never received an *acknowledgment* of his payment.

ac·me /ˈækmi/ *noun* [*singular*] : the highest point of something ▪ He was struck down by illness at the *acme* [=*height*] of his fame. [=when he was most famous] ▪ His fame was at its *acme*.

ac·ne /ˈækni/ *noun* [*noncount*] *medical* : a condition in which the skin on a person's face, neck, etc., has many small, swollen spots (called pimples) ▪ a teenager with bad *acne*

ac·o·lyte /ˈækəˌlaɪt/ *noun, pl* **-lytes** [*count*]

1 *formal* : someone who follows and admires a leader ▪ a popular professor dining with a few of her *acolytes*

2 : someone who helps the person who leads a church service

acorn /ˈeɪˌkoəɹn/ *noun, pl* **acorns** [*count*] : the nut of the oak tree

acorn squash *noun, pl* ~ **squash·es** [*count, noncount*] *US* : a vegetable that is somewhat round with a pointed end and has dark skin and yellow or orange flesh — see color picture on page C4

acous·tic /əˈkuːstɪk/ *also US* **acous·ti·cal** /əˈkuːstɪkəl/ *adj*

1 : of or relating to sound or to the sense of hearing ▪ the *acoustic* properties/characteristics of a room ▪ *acoustic* vibrations

2 a *of a musical instrument* : not having its sound changed by electrical devices ▪ an *acoustic* guitar ▪ *acoustic* instruments **b** : made with or using acoustic instruments ▪ She loves listening to *acoustic* folk music. ▪ an *acoustic* performance of a rock-and-roll song ▪ *acoustic* musicians

– **acous·ti·cal·ly** /əˈkuːstɪkli/ *adv* ▪ an *acoustically* perfect room

acous·tics /əˈkuːstɪks/ *noun*

1 [*plural*] : the qualities of a room (such as its shape or size) that make it easy or difficult for people inside to hear sounds clearly : acoustic qualities ▪ We love performing in this room because of its great *acoustics*. ▪ The *acoustics* in the school's auditorium are terrible.

2 [*noncount*] : the science that studies sounds ▪ *Acoustics* is a challenging subject.

ac·quaint /əˈkweɪnt/ *verb* **-quaints**; **-quaint·ed**; **-quaint·ing** [+ *obj*] *formal* : to cause (someone) to know and become familiar *with* something ▪ He *acquainted* the new employee *with* her duties. [=he told her about her duties] ▪ This class is designed to *acquaint* students *with* the region's most important writers. ▪ The lawyer took a few days to ***acquaint herself with*** [=to learn about] the facts of a case.

ac·quain·tance /əˈkweɪntn̩s/ *noun, pl* **-tanc·es**

1 [*count*] : someone who is known but who is not a close friend ▪ Is he an *acquaintance* of yours? [=have you met him?] ▪ She ran into an old *acquaintance* at the grocery store. ▪ My wife and I met through a mutual *acquaintance*. [=a friend introduced us to each other] ▪ a casual *acquaintance* ▪ friends and *acquaintances*

2 [*noncount*] *formal* : the state of knowing someone in a personal or social way : the state of knowing someone as an acquaintance ▪ our family's close *acquaintance* with our neighbors ▪ It's a pleasure to ***make your acquaintance***. [=(less formally) it's nice to meet you] ▪ She ***made the acquaintance of*** [=she met] a man from the city. ▪ She ***struck up an acquaintance with*** a man from the city. ▪ a doctor ***of my acquaintance*** [=a doctor that I know] ▪ He seemed cold ***on/at first acquaintance*** [=when I first met him], but later I realized that he was just shy. ▪ He seemed cold at first, but ***on closer/further acquaintance*** I realized that he was just shy.

3 : knowledge about something — + *with* [*singular*] She has only a nodding/slight/superficial *acquaintance with* the facts of the case. [=she knows only a little about the facts of the case] ▪ He has ***more than a passing acquaintance with*** wine. [=he knows a lot about wine] [*noncount*] While he has some *acquaintance with* the subject, he is not an expert.

– **acquaintanceship** *noun, pl* **-ships** [*count*] An *acquaintanceship* grew between the two men. [*noncount*] Her long *acquaintanceship* [=*acquaintance*] with sorrow began when her young husband died.

acquaint·ed *adj, not used before a noun*

1 *formal* : having knowledge about something : having seen or experienced something — + *with* ▪ Are you *acquainted with* the facts in this case? [=do you know the facts?] ▪ I am (well) *acquainted with* his books. [=I have read his books]

2 : having met : knowing each other in a personal or social way ▪ Are you two *acquainted*? [=have you met before?] ▪ The two actors are intimately/casually *acquainted*. [=they know each other intimately/casually] ▪ Let's take a walk and ***get acquainted***. ▪ I'll go get us some drinks while you two ***get better acquainted***. [=while you two talk to each other and get to know each other better] — often + *with* ▪ It took him a few months to *get/become acquainted with* the other students.

ac·qui·esce /ˌækwiˈɛs/ *verb* **-esc·es**; **-esced**; **-esc·ing** [*no obj*] *formal* : to accept, agree, or allow something to happen by staying silent or by not arguing ▪ They demanded it, and he *acquiesced*. — often + *in* ▪ We cannot *acquiesce in* the killing of innocent people. — often + *to* ▪ She *acquiesced to* her husband's plans.

– **ac·qui·es·cence** /ˌækwiˈɛsn̩s/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ I was surprised by his *acquiescence* to their demands.

ac·qui·es·cent /ˌækwiˈɛsn̩t/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *formal* : tending to accept or allow what other people want or demand ▪ The *acquiescent* girl became a strong assertive woman.

ac·quire /əˈkwajəɹ/ *verb* **-quires**; **-quired**; **-quir·ing** [+ *obj*]

1 *formal* : to get (something) : to come to own (something) ▪ They're planning to *acquire* [=*buy*] a new home in the country. ▪ He *acquired* [=*got, inherited*] a small fortune after the death of her parents. ▪ The two ships were *acquired* by the navy after the war. ▪ The team *acquired* three new players this year. : to come to have (something) ▪ She dreamed of *acquiring* [=*gaining, getting*] control of the company. ▪ When I saw her next she had somehow managed to *acquire* a few cuts and bruises. [=she had a few cuts and bruises] ▪ The old word has *acquired* a new meaning. ▪ This apparently minor event has *acquired* increasing significance in recent weeks.

2 : to gain (a new skill, ability, etc.) usually by your own effort ▪ She quickly *acquired* [=*gained*] fluency in French. ▪ He is studying the way that language is *acquired* by children. ▪ *acquire* knowledge ▪ He has ***acquired a reputation*** as a careful/careless worker. [=people regard him as a careful/careless worker] ✧ When people ***acquire a taste for*** something, they like something that they did not like before. ▪ Although he usually avoided unusual foods, he eventually began to *acquire a taste for* raw fish. ✧ An ***acquired taste*** is something or someone that is not easily or immediately liked. ▪ Brussels sprouts are an *acquired taste* for many people. ▪ I admit that she is something of an *acquired taste*, but I think her art is wonderful.

acquired immune deficiency syndrome *noun* [*noncount*] *medical* : AIDS

ac·qui·si·tion /ˌækwəˈzɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions**
1 [*noncount*] : the act of getting or acquiring something: such as **a** : the act or process of gaining skill, knowledge, etc. ▪ the *acquisition* of knowledge ▪ foreign language *acquisition* **b** : the act of obtaining money, possessions, etc. ▪ the *acquisition* of wealth ▪ the country's *acquisition* of new ships
2 [*count*] : something (such as a company or valuable property) that is acquired ▪ The big company's newest *acquisition* is a small chain of clothing stores. ▪ The museum has put its latest *acquisitions* on display.

ac·quis·i·tive /əˈkwɪzətɪv/ *adj, formal + disapproving* : having a strong desire to own or acquire more things ▪ our increasingly competitive and *acquisitive* [=*greedy*] society
– **ac·quis·i·tive·ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

ac·quit /əˈkwɪt/ *verb* **-quits**; **-quit·ted**; **-quit·ting** [+ *obj*] : to decide that someone is not guilty of a crime ▪ The jury *acquitted* the defendant because there wasn't enough evidence to convict him of the crime. ▪ She was *acquitted* of the murder of her husband. = She was *acquitted* of murdering her husband. — compare ¹CONVICT
acquit yourself : to act or behave in a specified way — used to express approval or (less commonly) disapproval of someone's behavior or performance ▪ The soldiers *acquitted themselves* well/honorably in battle. ▪ The young actress *acquitted herself* extremely well/capably in her first film. ▪ He *acquitted himself* poorly in handling the controversy.

ac·quit·tal /əˈkwɪtl̩/ *noun, pl* **-tals** : the act of deciding that a person is not guilty of a crime : the act of acquitting someone [*noncount*] The case resulted/ended in *acquittal* of the defendant. ▪ Several jurors voted for *acquittal*. [*count*] The case resulted/ended in an *acquittal* of the defendant.

acre /ˈeɪkɚ/ *noun, pl* **acres** [*count*] : a measure of land area in the U.S. and Britain that equals 4,840 square yards (about 4,047 square meters) ▪ The house sits/is on two *acres* of land. ▪ They own hundreds of *acres* of farmland. — sometimes used figuratively ▪ a cheap stunt that got them *acres* of free publicity [=a great amount of free publicity]

acre·age /ˈeɪkərɪʤ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : land measured in acres ▪ A large portion of the park's *acreage* is forest.

ac·rid /ˈækrəd/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : bitter and unpleasant in taste or smell ▪ Thick, *acrid* smoke rose from the factory.

ac·ri·mo·ni·ous /ˌækrəˈmoʊnijəs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *formal* : angry and bitter ▪ an *acrimonious* debate ▪ *acrimonious* disputes between nations ▪ He went through an *acrimonious* divorce.
– **ac·ri·mo·ni·ous·ly** *adv* ▪ The issue was *acrimoniously* debated.

ac·ri·mo·ny /ˈækrəˌmoʊni, *Brit* ˈækrəməni/ *noun* [*noncount*] *formal* : angry and bitter feelings ▪ The dispute began again with increased *acrimony*.

ac·ro·bat /ˈækrəˌbæt/ *noun, pl* **-bats** [*count*] : someone who entertains people (as at a circus) by performing difficult and often dangerous acts (such as swinging from a bar or walking on a rope high in the air)
– **ac·ro·bat·ic** /ˌækrəˈbætɪk/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ *acrobatic* skill ▪ an *acrobatic* feat ▪ The goalie is famous for her *acrobatic* saves. [=saves that involve difficult and skillful movements] – **ac·ro·bat·ical·ly** /ˌækrəˈbætɪkli/ *adj*

ac·ro·bat·ics /ˌækrəˈbætɪks/ *noun* [*plural*] : difficult and dangerous acts done by an acrobat ▪ The circus performers' *acrobatics* were spectacular!; *also* : difficult or dangerous acts, movements, etc., done by another kind of performer ▪ aerial *acrobatics* [=spectacular movements performed while flying] ▪ The singer's vocal *acrobatics* are impressive. — sometimes used figuratively ▪ It makes sense, but only after some complicated mental *acrobatics*.

ac·ro·nym /ˈækrəˌnɪm/ *noun, pl* **-nyms** [*count*] : a word formed from the first letters of each one of the words in a phrase ▪ The North Atlantic Treaty Organization is known by the *acronym* "NATO."

¹across /əˈkʰrɑːs/ *prep*
1 a : from one side to the other side of (something) ▪ We took a ferry *across* the river. ▪ We saw them walking *across* the street. ▪ She reached *across* the table to shake his hand. ▪ They traveled back and forth *across* the border. ▪ Airplanes flew *across* the sky above us. ▪ She slapped him right *across* the face. [=she slapped his face] **b** : on the other side of (something) ▪ He was seated *across* the table from me. ▪ Our grandparents live *across* the street (from us). ▪ The accident happened just *across* the state line.
2 : so as to reach or spread over or throughout (something) ▪ A smile spread *across* her face. ▪ Looking out *across* the ocean, he saw land. ▪ The sun's light spread *across* the mountains. ▪ The disease spread quickly *across* the country.
3 : in every part of (a country, region, etc.) ▪ The movie is now showing in theaters *across* [=*throughout*] America. ▪ Newspapers (all) *across* the world reported the story. ▪ We could hear the bells all *across* town.

²across *adv*
1 : from one side to the other ▪ The streams are small enough to jump *across*. ▪ They walked *across* to the other side of the street. ▪ They reached *across* and shook each other's hand.
2 : in a measurement from one side to the other side ▪ At its widest point, the pond measures 150 feet *across*. ▪ The hole was 10 feet *across*. [=10 feet wide]
3 : on the opposite side ▪ I saw them crossing the street and I waited until they were safely *across*.
across from : on the opposite side from (someone or something) ▪ She sat (directly) *across from* me at the table. ▪ The restaurant is (just) *across from* the high school.

across–the–board *adj, always used before a noun* : affecting everyone or everything in a group ▪ *across-the-board* price increases ▪ an *across-the-board* tax cut — see also *across the board* at ¹BOARD

acryl·ic /əˈkrɪlɪk/ *noun, pl* **-ics**
1 [*noncount*] : a material that is made from a chemical process and that is used for making many different products (such as clothing and paints) — often used before another noun ▪ *acrylic* fabrics ▪ *acrylic* paint
2 *acrylics* [*plural*] : paints that contain an acrylic substance and that are used by artists ▪ a painting done in *acrylics*

¹act /ˈækt/ *noun, pl* **acts**
1 [*count*] : something that is done ▪ His first official *act* [=*action*] as President was to sign the bill. ▪ We were grateful for her many *acts* of kindness. ▪ an *act* of bravery = a brave *act* ▪ criminal/illegal/unlawful/wrongful *acts* — see also SEX ACT
✧ An ***act of God*** is a natural event (such as a storm or earthquake) that cannot be controlled by people. ▪ The company cannot be held responsible in cases of bad weather or other *acts of God*.
2 [*count*] : a law made by a group of legislators ▪ The program was created by (an) *act* of Congress/Parliament. ▪ legislative *acts* ▪ the Civil Rights *Act* of 1964
3 [*count*] : one of the main divisions of a play or opera ▪ Please read *act* II, scene 1 of Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*. ▪ In the first/opening *act*, two characters are talking in a restaurant. ▪ a play in three *acts* = a three-*act* play
4 [*count*] **a** : one of the performances in a show ▪ a circus/magic *act* **b** : a show that a person or group performs often ▪ He has a great stand-up/comedy *act*. [=*routine*] ▪ She took her *act* on the road. [=she traveled and performed her act in different places] **c** : a person or group that performs in shows ▪ a two-person comedy *act* from New York City ▪ The band was one of this summer's most successful live *acts*. ✧ A ***balancing act*** or ***juggling act*** is an attempt to do several different things or deal with several different situations at the same time. ▪ It's a difficult *balancing act*, but many students hold full-time jobs while attending school. ▪ Working and raising children can be a real *juggling act* for parents. — see also CLASS ACT, *a hard/tough act to follow* at FOLLOW
5 [*singular*] : a way of behaving that is not honest or sincere ▪ He said he was sorry, but I realize now that it was all just an *act*. ▪ He wasn't really sorry. He was just ***putting on an act***.
clean up your act see *clean up* at ²CLEAN
get into the act *or* ***get in on the act*** : to start to participate in an activity ▪ We started selling them last year, and now other stores are *getting into the act*. [=now other stores are also selling them]
get your act together see *get together* at GET
in the act (of doing something) : while doing something ▪ When they arrived, I was just *in the act* of starting to make dinner. ▪ He tried to rob a bank and was ***caught in the act***. = He was *caught in the act* of robbing a bank.

²act *verb* **acts**; **act·ed**; **act·ing**
1 [*no obj*] : to do something : to take action ▪ Think before you *act*. ▪ He knew he had to *act* quickly/fast. ▪ The government was slow to *act*. ▪ The firefighters *acted* with great courage. = They *acted* courageously. ▪ She *acted* on behalf of her father, who was not at the meeting. ▪ I believe that the killer *acted* alone. ▪ She had *acted* in self-defense when she killed

A

her attacker. ▪ We were *acting* in the best interests of our children. ▪ If he refuses to cooperate, he'll be *acting* against his own (best) interests. [=he'll be acting in a way that is harmful to himself] ▪ We must *act* soon to end this crisis.

2 [*no obj*] : to behave in a particular way ▪ She learned at an early age how to *act* properly in social situations. ▪ People are always telling me how I should *act* and what I should say. ▪ I noticed that the dog was *acting* funny/differently/strangely this morning. ▪ *acting* more naturally/aggressively/responsibly ▪ She's been *acting* kind of crazy lately. ▪ Please learn the new rules and ***act accordingly***. [=follow the new rules] ✧ To ***act the part*** is to behave the way that people in a particular role usually behave. ▪ Now that he's rich he certainly *acts the part*. [=behaves like a rich person] ✧ To ***act your age*** is to behave the way that people your age should behave and not to behave like a younger person. ▪ John, *act your age*. You're not a kid anymore. ✧ To ***act like*** a particular kind of person or thing is to behave the way that person or thing behaves. ▪ You two are *acting like* children. ▪ It's time you start *acting like* a man. ▪ I'm sorry about yesterday. I *acted like* a fool/jerk. — see also ²ACT 3c (below)

3 a [*no obj*] : to behave in a way that is not sincere or honest ▪ Stop *acting*. We know you're guilty. **b** [*linking verb*] : to pretend to be something ▪ Stop *acting* innocent. ▪ She was terribly nervous, but she *acted* confident. ▪ I know you're bored, but can you at least try to *act* interested. ▪ He did his best to *act* excited. ▪ There she goes, offering advice and *acting* the expert. [=pretending to be an expert] ▪ If anybody asks you where I am, ***act dumb***. [=pretend that you do not know] **c** [*no obj*] : to pretend that something is true — usually used in the phrases ***act as if***, ***act as though***, and (*chiefly US*) ***act like*** ▪ She *acted as if* nothing had happened. ▪ We *acted as though* we knew what was going on. ▪ I tried to *act like* it didn't bother me, but it did. ▪ Even if you don't like your gift, you should *act like* you do. ▪ I didn't *act like* it, but I really was happy. — see also *act like* at ²ACT 2 (above)

4 : to perform the words and actions of a character in a play, movie, etc. : to perform as an actor [*no obj*] It had always been his dream to *act*. ▪ She can sing, dance, and *act*. ▪ As a child, she began *acting* in television commercials. ▪ Both actors have agreed to *act* in the movie. [+ *obj*] He'll be *acting* the part of Romeo in tonight's play. ▪ The role of Romeo was wonderfully *acted* by Mr. Jacob Smith. ▪ a beautifully *acted* movie [=a movie in which the acting is excellent]

5 [*no obj*] : to do the work of a particular kind of person or thing : to perform a certain function or role — + *as* ▪ A young man *acted* [=*served*] *as* our guide through the city. ▪ She'll be *acting as* her own attorney during the court trial. ▪ She agreed to *act as* his secretary. ▪ The trees *act as* a source of shade and protection from the wind.

6 [*no obj*] : to make something happen : to have a particular effect ▪ The chemical *acts* [=*works*] by destroying the cells in the brain. — often + *on* ▪ These medicines *act on* [=*affect*] the heart. — see also ACT ON/UPON (below)

act on/upon [*phrasal verb*] ***act on/upon (something)*** : to use (something, such as a feeling or suggestion) as a reason or basis for doing something ▪ They never *acted on* the information they had. ▪ We were too late to *act upon* his suggestion. ▪ It's okay to feel angry or jealous, but you mustn't *act on* those feelings. — see also ²ACT 6 (above)

act out [*phrasal verb*] **1 a** : to behave badly especially because you are feeling painful emotions (such as fear or anger) ▪ What can parents do when their kids start *acting out*? **b** ***act out (something) or act (something) out*** : to show that you are feeling (a painful emotion) by acting in ways that are not good or acceptable ▪ children *acting out* their emotions in inappropriate ways ▪ He tries not to *act out* his anger/frustrations. **2** ***act out (something) or act (something) out*** **a** : to perform (a play, a character in a movie, etc.) ▪ plays *acted out* on stage ▪ She skillfully *acted out* the role of a young queen. **b** : to do and say the things that happen in (a movie, past event, etc.) ▪ At their last party, they *acted out* [=*reenacted*] scenes from old movies. ▪ The children were *acting out* what they saw on television. ▪ adults *acting out* their childhood dreams/fantasies [=doing the things they wanted to do when they were children]

act the fool see ¹FOOL

act up [*phrasal verb*] **1** : to behave badly : to act in a way that is not polite or acceptable ▪ The kids are *acting up* [=*misbehaving*] again. ▪ The book gives advice to parents whose children *act up*. **2** *of a machine* : to not work properly ▪ The camera started *acting up* [=*malfunctioning*] after I dropped it. **3** *of a disease* : to become worse and to start causing pain or physical problems ▪ His asthma *acts up* when it's cold outside. ▪ Whenever it rains, my arthritis starts *acting up*.

ACT *abbr* American College Test ✧ The *ACT* is a test that some U.S. students take as a part of applying to colleges.

¹act·ing /ˈæktɪŋ/ *adj, always used before a noun* : performing a job for a short time : holding a temporary position ▪ The college's *acting* president will be replaced with a permanent one next fall.

²acting *noun* [*noncount*] : the art or profession of performing the role of a character in a play, movie, etc. : the art or profession of an actor ▪ *Acting* is my life! ▪ Her *acting* is unusually good in this film. ▪ a new style of *acting* — often used before another noun ▪ She's been taking *acting* classes. ▪ his successful *acting* career

ac·tion /ˈækʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions**

1 [*count*] : something that a person or group does ▪ As its first official *action* [=*act*], the committee elected Ms. Jones as its president. ▪ He was critical of the government's *actions* before the war. ▪ a military *action* against another country ▪ criminal/illegal *actions* ▪ She tried to explain/defend/justify her *actions*. ▪ I accept full responsibility for my *actions*. — often used with *take* ▪ The school has been asked to *take* certain *actions* to fix the problem. ▪ This is just one of the many *actions* that they could have *taken*. ✧ The saying ***actions speak louder than words*** means that the things that you do are more important than the things that you say. ▪ They say they want peace, but *actions speak louder than words*.

2 [*noncount*] : things done to achieve a particular purpose ▪ The situation demanded immediate *action*. ▪ The problem may require military *action*. ▪ The school took disciplinary *action* against the drunken students. ▪ They decided that no further *action* was necessary. ▪ We need to agree on a ***plan of action***. [=need to agree on what we will be doing] ▪ What's the best ***course of action***? [=what's the best way to proceed?] ▪ The protesters criticized the administration's ***lack of action*** [=*inaction*] on many issues. — often used with *take* ▪ We were ready to *take action*. [=to do something] ▪ Because the company failed to *take action* [=failed to act], many people were hurt. ▪ The company *took* no *action*. ▪ The police are now *taking* appropriate *action*. ▪ She's ***all talk and no action***. [=she says that she will do things, but she does not do them] ✧ A ***man of action*** or ***woman of action*** is a man or woman who works in an active way to do things. ▪ He was a scholar and thinker but was also a *man of action*. — see also AFFIRMATIVE ACTION, POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

3 [*noncount*] : fighting that happens in a war ▪ His unit first ***saw action*** [=fought in a battle] on June 20th. ▪ soldiers who were killed or wounded ***in action*** [=*in battle*] ▪ soldiers who are ***missing in action*** [=soldiers who cannot be found after a battle and might have been killed, captured, or wounded] — see also IN ACTION (below)

4 *the action* : the most exciting or interesting activities that are happening in a particular place ▪ The new theater places the audience closer to the center/middle of *the action*. ▪ I moved to New York City to be (a) part of *the action*. ▪ Downtown is ***where the action is***. [=downtown is a very active and exciting place]

5 [*noncount*] **a** *informal* : a chance or opportunity to make money ▪ Do any of you guys want to ***get in on the action***? [=participate in a plan to make money] ✧ ***A piece of the action*** or (*chiefly US*) ***a cut of the action*** or (*chiefly Brit*) ***a slice of the action*** is a portion or share of the money that can be earned from something. ▪ He saw that his friends were making money illegally, and he wanted to get *a piece of the action*. **b** *slang, sometimes offensive* : sexual activity ▪ I met a girl who was ready for some *action*.

6 [*noncount*] : the events that happen in a story, movie, etc. ▪ Most of the play's *action* takes place in a restaurant. ▪ the *action* [=*plot*] of the novel

7 [*noncount*] : events that happen quickly and that cause feelings of danger and excitement ▪ The movie is two hours of nonstop *action*. [=*excitement*] ▪ We went out looking for *action*. ▪ That's when the *action* really starts. — often used before another noun ▪ *action* movies ▪ the film's final *action* sequence — see also LIVE ACTION

8 — used as a director's command to start filming part of a movie or television show ▪ Lights, camera, *action*!

9 *law* : the process of having a court of law make a decision about an argument [*count*] The court dismissed the *action*. [=*case, lawsuit*] ▪ She brought/filed an *action* against the company for damages. ▪ ***civil actions*** [=lawsuits about a person's rights] [*noncount*] They are threatening/considering

legal *action*. • bringing/taking *action* against companies for damages — see also CLASS ACTION

10 [*noncount*] : a process in which one thing causes a change in another thing • the *action* [=*effect*] of certain chemicals on the brain • The medicine blocks the *action* of these proteins. [=it stops the proteins from working] • The cave was formed by the *action* of an underground river.

11 : the way that something works or moves [*noncount*] Food is swallowed by the *action* of the tongue. • the *action* of the heart • the mechanical *action* of a pulley • the drill's twisting *action* • a single-*action* revolver [*singular*] The gears meshed with a smooth *action*.

in action : in the act of doing something : performing a usual job or function • We came to the court to see our country's judicial system *in action*. [=*at work*] • The fans have come to see their favorite players *in action*. • After a two year break from baseball, he's finally ***back in action***. [=he's playing baseball again] — see also ACTION 3 (above)

into action : to an active state • They had already put the plan *into action*. [=started using the plan] • Firefighters are ready to ***leap/spring/swing into action*** [=quickly start working] at a moment's notice. ✧ When people or things are ***called into action***, they are asked to start working or doing a particular task. • As a doctor, she can be *called into action* at any time of the day. • Our military unit was *called into action* at the start of the war.

out of action : unable to perform a usual job or function : not in action • He broke his leg and the doctors say that he'll be *out of action* [=*out of commission*] for at least a month. • His broken leg will ***put/keep him out of action*** for at least a month.

ac•tion•able /ˈækʃənəbəl/ *adj*

1 *law* : giving a reason to bring an action or a lawsuit against someone • Firing people because of their age is *actionable*.

2 *chiefly US, formal* : able to be used as a basis or reason for doing something • We've received *actionable* information that the men are hiding in these mountains.

action figure *noun, pl* ~ **-ures** [*count*] : a small usually plastic doll ✧ *Action figures* are made to look like superheroes, soldiers, robots, etc.

action–packed *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : filled with action, danger, and excitement • an *action-packed* adventure movie

action replay *noun, pl* ~ **-plays** [*count*] *Brit* : INSTANT REPLAY • see the winning goal again in an *action replay*

action verb *noun, pl* ~ **verbs** [*count*] *grammar* : a verb that expresses action • "Drive" in "We often drive past their house" and "think" in "Let's think about the problem" are both *action verbs*. — compare LINKING VERB

ac•ti•vate /ˈæktəˌveɪt/ *verb* **-vates**; **-vat•ed**; **-vat•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to make (something) active or more active: such as **a** : to cause (a device) to start working • Touch the screen to *activate* the system. • *activate* and then deactivate a mechanism • A loud alarm was *activated* [=*set off*] when he opened the door. • The camera is *activated* by pushing a button. • The bomb was *activated* by remote control. **b** *chemistry* : to cause (a chemical reaction or natural process) to begin • Sunlight *activates* a chemical reaction in the plant's leaves. • vitamins that *activate* the growth of new cells

2 *chiefly US* : to order (soldiers) to serve in a war • The President has *activated* the reserves. • *activate* the troops • Our military unit was *activated* [=*called into action*] soon after the start of the war.

– **ac•ti•va•tion** /ˌæktəˈveɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*]

ac•tive /ˈæktɪv/ *adj*

1 [*more* ~; *most* ~] : doing things that require physical movement and energy • We stay/keep *active* during the cold winter months by skiing and ice skating. • Despite her age, she has been able to maintain her *active* [=*busy*] lifestyle. • Cats are most *active* [=*energetic, lively*] at night.

2 [*more* ~; *most* ~] **a** : involved in the activities of a group or organization • We are *active* members of our church. • While many give money to the organization, only a few are *active* participants. : participating in an action or activity • She was politically *active* as a volunteer for her state representative. — often + *in* • They were *active in* the antiwar movement of the 1960s. • *active in* women's causes **b** : involving action or participation • They take an *active* interest in their children's education. • He has taken/played a more *active* role in the production of this album.

3 : marked by regular action or use • the bank's *active* and inactive accounts • He became ***sexually active*** [=he began having sex] at the age of 21.

4 *of a volcano* : likely to explode violently or produce fire and hot liquid rock : capable of erupting • Most volcanoes on this island are still *active* but a few are inactive.

5 *of a disease* : becoming worse or continuing to have bad effects • *active* tuberculosis • The disease remains *active* throughout the patient's life.

6 : having a chemical effect especially on the body • The medicine has two *active* ingredients. • the *active* ingredient in/of marijuana

7 a *US* : involving service in the military as a main job • After two years of ***active duty*** [=two years of being a full-time member of the military] she entered the reserves. • She was ***on active duty*** for two years. **b** : involving fighting in a war as a member of the military • He saw no ***active service*** [=he did not fight in any battles] during his time in the army. • He was ***on active service*** in three separate wars. • soldiers returning home from *active service*

8 *grammar* **a** *of a verb or voice* : showing that the subject of a sentence is the one doing the action expressed by the verb • "Picked" in "I picked the apples" is an *active* verb because it shows that the subject "I" is the one who picked the apples. • "Hits" in "She hits the ball" is *active*, while "hit" in "The ball was hit" is passive. ✧ The ***active voice*** is a way of writing or speaking that uses active verbs. • The sentence "The birds are singing" is written in the *active voice*. — compare PASSIVE **b** *of a verb* : expressing action rather than describing the state of something • Words like "walk," "sing," and "eat" are *active* verbs. • In the sentence "Look at this picture," the verb "look" is *active*.

– **ac•tive•ly** *adv* • They participate *actively* in their church. • *actively* involved in a conversation

ac•tiv•ist /ˈæktɪvɪst/ *noun, pl* **-ists** [*count*] : a person who uses or supports strong actions (such as public protests) to help make changes in politics or society • Antiwar *activists* were protesting in the streets. • an environmental *activist* • political *activists*

– **ac•tiv•ism** /ˈæktɪˌvɪzəm/ *noun* [*noncount*] • political *activism*

ac•tiv•i•ty /ækˈtɪvəti/ *noun, pl* **-ties**

1 [*noncount*] : the state of being active • The holidays always set off a lot of *activity* in our home. : behavior or actions of a particular kind • the sexual *activity* of married couples • The police are now monitoring criminal/gang/drug *activity* in the area. • There has been an increase in the city's (level of) economic *activity*. • She gets at least 30 minutes of physical *activity* every day. • The instruments are used to detect volcanic *activity* on the island.

2 [*count*] : something that is done as work or for a particular purpose — usually plural • Grandma needs help with her everyday/daily *activities*. • business *activities* • political *activities* • They were accused of financing the group's illegal *activities*.

3 [*count*] : something that is done for pleasure and that usually involves a group of people • We planned an *activity* for the children. — usually plural • The camp offers hiking, swimming, and other recreational *activities*. • social *activities*

ac•tor /ˈæktɚ/ *noun, pl* **-tors** [*count*] : a person who acts in a play, movie, etc.

> ***usage*** *Actor* is often used to refer specifically to a man or boy who acts. • He's a talented *actor*, and his wife is a well-known actress. *Actor* can also refer to a woman or girl, and many women now prefer this use. • His wife is also an *actor*. The plural form *actors* is used for groups that include both men and women. • She and her husband are both talented *actors*.

ac•tress /ˈæktrəs/ *noun, pl* **-tress•es** [*count*] : a woman or girl who acts in a play, movie, etc. : a female actor ***usage*** see ACTOR

ac•tu•al /ˈækʧəwəl/ *adj*

1 : real and not merely possible or imagined : existing in fact • The movie is based on *actual* events. [=on events that really happened] • They signed the agreement in the spring, but the *actual* sale wasn't made until that summer. • You deposit money in a bank account but the *actual* money is not held there. • He looks younger, but he is ***in actual fact*** almost 60 years old. [=he is actually almost 60 years old]

2 : known to be correct or precise : not false or apparent • The woman's *actual* [=*exact*] age is unknown. • The *actual* cost of the repair was much higher than the estimate.

3 — used for emphasis • This is the *actual* [=*very*] room in which my grandfather was born.

ac•tu•al•i•ty /ˌækʧəˈwæləti/ *noun, pl* **-ties**

A

1 [*noncount*] : the quality or state of being actual or real ▪ It was hard to accept the *actuality* [=*reality*] of the disease.

2 [*count*] : something that is actual or real ▪ the *actualities* [=*realities*] of war ▪ The *actuality* was quite different from the theory.

in actuality : in truth — used to stress that something is true when it is different from what was believed or expected ▪ He gave me what turned out to be, *in actuality* [=*in reality, in fact*], only a copy of the original. ▪ I thought they just arrived, but *in actuality* they'd been here for an hour.

ac·tu·al·ly /ˈæktʃəwəli/ *adv*

1 — used to refer to what is true or real ▪ I don't know what *actually* [=*really*] happened. ▪ After all these months, it's hard to believe that we're *actually* [=*really, truly*] finished.

2 — used to stress that a statement is true especially when it differs in some way from what might have been thought or expected ▪ We'd *actually* planned to leave early, but we were delayed. ▪ I wasn't worried about being late. *Actually*, I didn't want to go at all. ▪ I didn't think I'd like the movie, but it was *actually* pretty good. ▪ I was shocked to learn he could *actually* fly a plane. ▪ I could hardly believe it when she *actually* apologized to me. ▪ "I like your new glasses." "Thanks, but *actually* I've had them for almost a year."

ac·tu·ary /ˈæktʃəˌweri, *Brit* ˈæktʃuəri/ *noun, pl* **-ar·ies** [*count*] : a person whose job is to tell insurance companies how much they should charge people for insurance based on risks

– **ac·tu·ar·i·al** /ˌæktʃəˈwerijəl/ *adj* ▪ *actuarial* calculations

ac·tu·ate /ˈæktʃəˌweɪt/ *verb* **-ates**; **-at·ed**; **-at·ing** [+ *obj*]

1 *technical* : to make (a machine or electrical device) move or operate ▪ The pump is *actuated* by the windmill.

2 *formal* : to cause someone to do something or to act in a certain way — usually used as *(be) actuated* ▪ He had *been actuated* [=*motivated*] by greed when he made his decision. = His decision had *been actuated* by greed.

acu·ity /əˈkjuːwəti/ *noun* [*noncount*] *formal* : the ability to see, hear, or understand something easily ▪ mental/visual/political *acuity* [=*acuteness*] ▪ her *acuity* [=*keenness, sharpness*] of perception

acu·men /əˈkjuːmən/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the ability to think clearly and make good decisions ▪ Her political *acumen* won her the election. ▪ a lack of business/financial *acumen*

acu·pres·sure /ˈækjəˌprɛʃɚ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a method of relieving pain or curing illness by pressing on particular points on a person's body with the fingertips or thumbs — compare ACUPUNCTURE

acu·punc·ture /ˈækjəˌpʌŋktʃɚ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a method of relieving pain or curing illness by placing needles into a person's skin at particular points on the body — compare ACUPRESSURE

– **acu·punc·tur·ist** /ˈækjəˌpʌŋktʃərɪst/ *noun, pl* **-ists** [*count*]

acute /əˈkjuːt/ *adj* **acut·er**; **-est** [*or more* ~; *most* ~]

1 : very serious or dangerous : requiring serious attention or action ▪ an *acute* [=*critical, severe*] fuel shortage ▪ an *acute* crisis ▪ the *acute* phase [=the most important and dangerous phase] of the struggle for independence

2 *usually used before a noun* : having or showing an ability to think clearly and to understand what is not obvious or simple about something ▪ an *acute* observation/understanding ▪ an *acute* observer ▪ an *acute* sense of humor ▪ It's a politically *acute* film that does not oversimplify the issues.

3 : very strong and sensitive : highly developed ▪ *acute* [=*keen*] hearing/vision ▪ *acute* awareness

4 : strongly felt or experienced ▪ *acute* distress/embarrassment

5 *medical* **a** : very sharp and severe ▪ *acute* pain/infection ▪ *acute* symptoms **b** : becoming very severe very quickly ▪ an *acute* disease ✧ A hospital or doctor who specializes in ***acute care*** works with patients who have diseases or problems that require immediate care. ▪ an *acute care* hospital — compare CHRONIC

6 *mathematics* : ending in a sharp point : measuring less than 90 degrees ▪ an *acute* angle — compare OBTUSE

7 *of an accent mark* : having the form ´ ▪ The word "café" is written with an *acute* accent over the "e." — compare ²GRAVE 3

– **acute·ly** *adv* ▪ I am *acutely* aware of these problems. ▪ The patient was *acutely* ill. – **acute·ness** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the *acuteness* of the fuel shortage

ad /ˈæd/ *noun, pl* **ads** [*count*] : ADVERTISEMENT ▪ I saw your *ad* in the newspaper. ▪ radio/television *ads* ▪ (*chiefly US*) She works for an ***ad agency*** [=*advertising agency*] in New York. — see also WANT AD

AD *or chiefly US* **A.D.** *abbr* — used to refer to the years since the birth of Christ ▪ 550 *A.D.* = *A.D.* 550 ▪ the first century *A.D.* ▪ in the year 823 *A.D.* ✧ *A.D.* stands for the Latin phrase *anno Domini*, which means "in the year of the Lord." — compare B.C., B.C.E., C.E.

ad·age /ˈædɪʤ/ *noun, pl* **-ag·es** [*count*] : an old and well-known saying that expresses a general truth ▪ My mother always used to remind us of the (old) *adage*, "If you can't say something nice, don't say anything at all."

¹ada·gio /əˈdɑːʤijoʊ/ *adv* : in a slow manner : SLOWLY — used as a direction in music

– **adagio** *adj*

²adagio *noun, pl* **-gios** [*count*] : a piece of music that is played or performed slowly and gracefully

Ad·am /ˈædəm/ *noun*

not know (someone) from Adam see ¹KNOW

ad·a·mant /ˈædəmənt/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : not willing to change an opinion or decision : very determined ▪ She is an *adamant* [=*strong*] defender of women's rights. ▪ We've tried to talk him into coming with us, but he's *adamant* about staying here. ▪ an *adamant* refusal

– **adamance** *or* **adamancy** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the *adamancy* of her refusal – **ad·a·mant·ly** *adv* ▪ He's *adamantly* opposed to coming with us.

Adam's apple *noun, pl* ~ **apples** [*count*] : the lump that sticks out in the front of a person's neck, that is usually larger in men than in women, and that moves when a person talks or swallows

adapt /əˈdæpt/ *verb* **adapts**; **adapt·ed**; **adapt·ing**

1 : to change your behavior so that it is easier to live in a particular place or situation [*no obj*] When children go to a different school, it usually takes them a while to *adapt*. — usually + *to* ▪ These fish all *adapt* easily *to* colder water. ▪ She has *adapted to* college life quite easily. [+ *obj*] She has ***adapted herself to*** college life quite easily.

2 [+ *obj*] : to change (something) so that it functions better or is better suited for a purpose ▪ The teachers *adapted* [=*modified*] the curriculum so that students of all abilities will benefit from it. ▪ The camera has been *adapted* for underwater use. ▪ The clock was *adapted* to run on batteries.

3 [+ *obj*] : to change (a movie, book, play, etc.) so that it can be presented in another form ▪ He *adapted* the novel for the stage. [=he rewrote the novel as a play] ▪ The movie was *adapted* from the book of the same title. ▪ *adapting* the movie for television

adapt·able /əˈdæptəbəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : able to change or be changed in order to fit or work better in some situation or for some purpose : able to adapt or be adapted ▪ an *adaptable* tool that combines a screwdriver, a corkscrew, and pliers ▪ very *adaptable* animals — often + *to* ▪ These plants are all easily *adaptable to* colder climates. ▪ The computer program is *adaptable to* the needs of individual users.

– **adapt·abil·i·ty** /əˌdæptəˈbɪləti/ *noun* [*noncount*]

ad·ap·ta·tion /ˌæˌdæpˈteɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions**

1 [*count*] : something that is adapted; *especially* : a movie, book, play, etc., that is changed so that it can be presented in another form ▪ His stage *adaptation* of the novel was a success. ▪ The film is an *adaptation* of a book of the same title.

2 [*count*] : a change in a plant or animal that makes it better able to live in a particular place or situation ▪ The insect's evolutionary *adaptations* enable it to be almost invisible even when sitting in the middle of a leaf.

3 [*noncount*] : the process of changing to fit some purpose or situation : the process of adapting ▪ a tool designed for easy *adaptation*

adapt·er *also* **adap·tor** /əˈdæptɚ/ *noun, pl* **adapters** *also* **adaptors** [*count*] : a device that is used to connect two pieces of equipment that were not designed to be connected

add /ˈæd/ *verb* **adds**; **add·ed**; **add·ing**

1 [+ *obj*] **a** : to put (something) with another thing or group of things ▪ She's planning to *add* some new flowers to the garden. ▪ The company is *adding* over 200 jobs this year. ▪ This winter, he *added* skiing to his list of favorite sports. **b** : to mix or combine (an ingredient) with other ingredients ▪ *Add* (in) a little more salt and pepper. ▪ I *added* (in) just a dash/pinch of flour. ▪ *Add* one cup of sugar to the mixture. ▪ Next, *add* the remaining butter to the pan. **c** : to include (something) with something else ▪ It took us four hours to get there, if you *add* (in) the time we stopped to eat.

2 [+ *obj*] : to cause something to have (a usually good quality

or characteristic) ▪ In this dish, fresh herbs *add* lots of color and flavor. ▪ As an employee, she will *add* [=*bring*] great value to your company. ▪ We can help you *add* excitement to your vacation. ▪ The historical details *add* depth/richness/weight to his story. ▪ She *adds* a certain amount of experience and authority to the project.

3 : to put (two or more numbers or amounts) together to find a total or sum [+ *obj*] When you *add* three and/to seven, you get ten. ▪ *Add* these three numbers together. [*no obj*] schoolchildren learning how to *add* [=to perform addition] and subtract — opposite SUBTRACT

4 [+ *obj*] : to say or write (something more or extra) ▪ That's all I have to say. Do you have anything (else/more) to *add*? = Is there anything (else/more) you would like to *add*? ▪ "They all went to the bar," he said. "But I didn't go with them," he quickly *added*. ▪ He was quick to *add* that he didn't go with them. = He ***hastened to add*** that he didn't go with them. ▪ It was a long project and, ***I might add***, an expensive one.

add insult to injury see ²INSULT

add on [*phrasal verb*] ***add (something) on*** *or* ***add on (something)*** : to put (something) with another thing or group of things ▪ We're going to *add on* a new garage. — often + *to* ▪ We're *adding* a new garage *on to* our house. ▪ They're *adding* $200 *on to* what we already have to pay. ✧ The phrase *add on to* is also written as *add onto*. ▪ We're *adding* a new garage *onto* our house.

add to [*phrasal verb*] ***add to (something)*** : to make (something) larger, better, or greater ▪ He bought another rare coin to *add to* his collection. ▪ Her research has greatly *added to* our knowledge of the subject. ▪ She's been able to *add to* her savings [=to save more money] this year. ▪ This movie will *add to* his fame. [=it will make him more famous] ▪ The loud music *added to* the confusion. [=it made the confusion greater] ▪ We hope this *adds to* your enjoyment of the play. ▪ The funny characters really *add to* the story. [=they make the story better] ✧ Phrases like ***add to this/that*** and ***added to this/that*** are often used informally to introduce a statement about something that makes a thing or situation better, worse, more important, etc. ▪ We were given little time to finish. *Add to this* the fact that nobody helped us, and you can understand why we were angry. ▪ We were short of money. *Added to that*, we were lost!

add up [*phrasal verb*] **1 a** : to be added together and equal the expected or correct total — usually used in negative constructions ▪ The numbers just don't *add up*. [=they don't equal the expected total] **b** : to make sense : to seem to be logical or true ▪ They must be lying; their story just doesn't *add up*. **c** : to slowly increase and become a large number or amount ▪ A cup of coffee may only cost a dollar, but those dollars *add up* quickly. ▪ I'm saving a little money each month. Eventually it'll *add up*. ▪ The hours that I spend traveling to work really *add up*. **2** ***add (something) up*** *or* ***add up (something)*** : to put together or count (the number or amount of something) to find the total ▪ Start by *adding up* how much money you have, and then *add up* your costs. ▪ Let's *add up* all of the money we saved. ▪ When you *add* it all *up*, he's spent over half of his life in jail. **3** ***add up to (something)*** **a** : to have (a number) as a total ▪ The amount of money she spends on coffee *adds up to* $2.75 a day. ▪ That *adds up to* more than a thousand dollars a year. **b** : to produce (a specified result) ▪ These plans should *add up to* a very exciting vacation. ▪ With these three bands playing together, it all *adds up to* one of the year's best rock concerts. ▪ All of the team's hard work didn't *add up to* a win.

– **added** *adj* ▪ The historical details provide *added* [=*additional*] depth/richness/weight to his story. ▪ *added* value ▪ an *added* attraction/advantage

ADD *abbr* attention deficit disorder

ad·den·dum /əˈdɛndəm/ *noun, pl* **-den·da** /-ˈdɛndə/ *or* **-den·dums** [*count*] : something that is added; *especially* : a section of a book that is added to the main or original text ▪ The letters are included as an *addendum* to the biography.

ad·der /ˈædɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ders** [*count*] : a poisonous snake found in Europe

ad·dict /ˈædɪkt/ *noun, pl* **-dicts** [*count*]

1 : a person who is not able to stop taking drugs : a person who is addicted to drugs ▪ The clinic provides counseling for (drug) *addicts*. ▪ a heroin/cocaine/crack *addict*

2 *informal* : a person who likes or enjoys something very much and spends a large amount of time doing it, watching it, etc. ▪ a television *addict* [=*junkie*] ▪ basketball *addicts*

ad·dict·ed /əˈdɪktəd/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : having an addiction: such as **a** : unable to stop using a harmful substance (such as a drug) — usually + *to* ▪ He's *addicted to* heroin/nicotine. **b** : unable to stop doing something that is harmful ▪ a severely *addicted* smoker — usually + *to* ▪ He's *addicted to* smoking. **c** : having an unusually great interest in something or a need to do or have something — usually + *to* ▪ He's *addicted to* (playing/watching) basketball. ▪ She's *addicted to* television.

ad·dic·tion /əˈdɪkʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions**

1 : a strong and harmful need to regularly have something (such as a drug) or do something (such as gamble) [*count*] He has a drug *addiction*. — often + *to* ▪ an *addiction to* pain medication ▪ an *addiction to* playing the lottery [*noncount*] His life has been ruined by heroin *addiction*.

2 [*count*] : an unusually great interest in something or a need to do or have something ▪ He devotes his summers to his surfing *addiction*. — often + *to* ▪ She has an *addiction to* mystery novels.

ad·dic·tive /əˈdɪktɪv/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : causing addiction: such as **a** : causing a strong and harmful need to regularly have or do something ▪ highly *addictive* drugs like crack and heroin **b** : very enjoyable in a way that makes you want to do or have something again ▪ the *addictive* thrill of surfing ▪ These candies are *addictive*.

ad·di·tion /əˈdɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions**

1 [*noncount*] : the act or process of joining something to something else : the act or process of adding something — often + *of* ▪ The soup was thickened by the *addition of* cream in the last stage of cooking. ▪ The town welcomed the *addition of* three new computers to the library.

2 [*noncount*] *mathematics* : the act or process of adding numbers ▪ The children learned *addition* and subtraction.

3 [*count*] : something or someone more that is included : something or someone that is added ▪ The museum's collection includes several new *additions*. — usually + *to* ▪ an *addition to* the family [=a new member of the family, such as a newborn baby] ▪ The sculpture is the newest *addition to* the museum's collection.

4 [*count*] *US* : a part of a building that is built after the original part has been completed ▪ The *addition* expands the kitchen and adds a second bathroom.

in addition : as something more — used for adding information to a statement ▪ The city has the largest population in the country and *in addition* [=*also, additionally*] is a major shipping port. ▪ Sandwiches were served, and several salads *in addition*.

in addition to : along with or together with (something or someone) ▪ *In addition to* soup, several salads were served. ▪ There were six people at the meeting *in addition to* me.

ad·di·tion·al /əˈdɪʃənl/ *adj* : more than is usual or expected ▪ Larger windows will require *additional* work, but the *additional* light they will provide may be worth the extra trouble. ▪ There's an *additional* [=*extra*] fee/charge for returning the car a day late. ▪ The memory on this computer has the *additional* [=*added*] advantage of being expandable.

– **ad·di·tion·al·ly** /əˈdɪʃənḷi/ *adv* ▪ The restaurant has a large menu; *additionally* [=*in addition*], there are several special dishes that are prepared each day.

ad·di·tive /ˈædətɪv/ *noun, pl* **-tives** [*count*] : something (such as a chemical) that is added in small amounts to a substance to improve it in some way ▪ a gasoline *additive* to reduce pollution ▪ food *additives*

ad·dle /ˈædḷ/ *verb* **ad·dles**; **ad·dled**; **ad·dling** [+ *obj*] : to make (someone's mind or brain) unable to think clearly ▪ It's a dangerous poison that's strong enough to *addle* the brain. ▪ Their brains were *addled* with/by fear/drugs.

– **addled** *adj* ▪ I needed a moment to clear my *addled* [=*confused*] brain/mind. ▪ an *addled* old man

add–on /ˈædˌɑːn/ *noun, pl* **-ons** [*count*] : an extra part or device that can be added to something else to improve it ▪ He has all the latest *add-ons* for his computer. ▪ I knew the base price for the car, but with the *add-ons* I wanted, the final price was quite a bit higher. — often used before another noun ▪ *add-on* components ▪ *add-on* equipment

¹ad·dress /əˈdrɛs/ *verb* **-dress·es**; **-dressed**; **-dress·ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to write on an envelope, package, letter, etc., the name and address of the person or business it is being sent to ▪ I've *addressed* the letter, but it still needs a stamp. ▪ The package is sealed; it just needs to be *addressed*. ▪ We spent the afternoon *addressing* invitations to all our friends. ▪ The letter was

A

returned because it had been *addressed* incorrectly.

2 a : to speak to (a person or group) ▪ She ignored most of the people at the table, *addressing* only the man who was sitting next to her. ▪ One of the characters *addresses* the audience directly throughout the play. **b :** to use a specified name or title when speaking or writing to (someone) — + *as* ▪ As children, we *addressed* him *as* "sir" [=we called him "sir"] even though he was only a few years older than us. ▪ You should *address* the queen *as* "Your Majesty." **c :** to direct (spoken or written words) *to* someone ▪ She *addressed* her comments *to* the man [=she spoke to the man] who was sitting next to her. ▪ Most of the speaker's remarks were *addressed to* those with experience in the industry.

3 : to give a formal speech to (a group of people) ▪ Before the awards were given, the mayor *addressed* the crowd.

4 *formal* **:** to give attention to (something) **:** to deal with (a matter, issue, problem, etc.) ▪ We're all curious about how the mayor plans to *address* the issue. ▪ Air pollution is one of the many problems being *addressed* by the scientists at the conference. ▪ The principal held a meeting to *address* the students' concerns. ✧ If you ***address yourself to*** an issue or problem you give your attention to it. ▪ The governor is *addressing himself to* the problem of underfunded schools.

²ad·dress /ə'drɛs, 'æˌdrɛs/ *noun, pl* **-dress·es** [*count*]

1 a : the words and numbers that are used to describe the location of a building and that are written on letters, envelopes, and packages so that they can be mailed to that location ▪ Write your name, *address*, and phone number in the spaces provided. ▪ Our *address* [=the address of our home] is 82 Third Street. ▪ Please deliver the package to my work *address*. [=the address of the building where I work] ▪ I forgot to put the ***return address*** [=the address of the person sending the letter] on the envelope. — see picture at MAIL **b :** the letters, numbers, and symbols that are used to direct an e-mail message or to show the location of a site on the Internet ▪ an e-mail *address* ▪ a Web *address*

2 : a formal speech ▪ We listened to the President's inaugural *address* on the radio. ▪ She was asked to give/deliver a formal *address* at the ceremony. — see also KEYNOTE ADDRESS, PUBLIC ADDRESS SYSTEM

form/term of address **:** a word, name, or title that is used when speaking or writing to someone ▪ "Honey" is an affectionate *term of address* in U.S. English.

address book *noun, pl* **~ books** [*count*]

1 : a small book in which you write the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of people you know

2 : a place on a computer or other device for storing e-mail addresses, phone numbers, etc.

ad·dress·ee /ˌæˌdrɛ'si:/ *noun, pl* **-ees** [*count*] **:** the person to whom mail is addressed ▪ The *addressee* no longer lives here, so I've returned the letter to the post office.

ad·duce /ə'du:s, *Brit* ə'dju:s/ *verb* **-duc·es; -duced; -duc·ing** [+ *obj*] *formal* **:** to mention or provide (something, such as a fact or example) as evidence or proof to support an argument ▪ The evidence the author has *adduced* [=*put forth*] is rather weak.

ad·e·noids /'ædəˌnoɪdz/ *noun* [*plural*] **:** a mass of tissue in the back of the throat that can become swollen and make it difficult to breathe

– ad·e·noi·dal /ˌædə'noɪdl̩/ *adj* ▪ an *adenoidal* voice [=a nasal voice, a voice that sounds odd or unattractive because it seems to be spoken through the nose]

¹adept /ə'dɛpt/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] **:** very good at doing something that is not easy ▪ He's *adept* in several languages. ▪ politically *adept* — usually + *at* ▪ She's *adept at* fixing flaws in the system. ▪ He was *adept at* (using) computers.

– adept·ly *adv* ▪ He switched *adeptly* between English and Italian. **– adept·ness** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ her *adeptness* at fixing flaws

²ad·ept /'æˌdɛpt/ *noun, pl* **-epts** [*count*] **:** a highly skilled or well-trained person **:** someone who is adept at something ▪ a computer *adept* ▪ an *adept* at chess

ad·e·quate /'ædɪkwət/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*]

1 : enough for some need or requirement ▪ Be sure to allow *adequate* [=*sufficient, enough*] time for the paint to dry. ▪ The garden hasn't been getting *adequate* water. ▪ The food was ***more than adequate*** for the six of us.

2 : good enough **:** of a quality that is good or acceptable ▪ Millions of people lack *adequate* [=*sufficient*] health care. ▪ The school lunch should be *adequate* to meet the nutritional needs of growing children. ▪ The machine does an *adequate* job. ▪ The tent should provide *adequate* protection from the elements. ▪ The quality of his work was perfectly *adequate*.

: of a quality that is acceptable but not better than acceptable ▪ Your grades are *adequate* but I think you can do better. ▪ The quality of his work was only/merely/barely *adequate*. — opposite INADEQUATE

– ad·e·qua·cy /'ædɪkwəsi/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ Environmentalists doubt the *adequacy* of the regulations. [=doubt that the regulations are adequate] **– ad·e·quate·ly** *adv* ▪ Are you *adequately* prepared for the exam?

ad·here /æd'hiɚ/ *verb* **-heres; -hered; -her·ing** [*no obj*] **:** to stick to something **:** to attach firmly to something ▪ The stamp failed to *adhere*. — usually + *to* ▪ The stamp failed to *adhere to* the envelope. ▪ The mud *adhered to* his shoes.

adhere to [*phrasal verb*] ***adhere to (something)*** **:** to act in the way that is required by (something, such as a rule, belief, or promise) ▪ They will *adhere to* the terms of the contract. ▪ Certain standards must be *adhered to* by all members. ▪ She *adheres to* [=*follows*] a strict vegetarian diet.

ad·her·ence /æd'hirəns/ *noun* [*noncount*] **:** the act of adhering; *especially* **:** the act of doing what is required by a rule, belief, etc. — usually + *to* ▪ The school requires *adherence to* a strict dress code. ▪ *adherence to* religious laws — compare ADHESION

ad·her·ent /æd'hirənt/ *noun, pl* **-ents** [*count*] **:** a person who is loyal to a leader, group, or religion ▪ *adherents* of Islam/Judaism/Buddhism ▪ one of Freud's *adherents* [=someone who agrees with Freud's theories] **:** a person who adheres to or supports a system or set of principles ▪ an *adherent* of free trade

ad·he·sion /æd'hi:ʒən/ *noun, pl* **-sions**

1 [*noncount*] **:** the act of adhering; *especially* **:** the act of sticking or attaching to something ▪ the *adhesion* of the coating ▪ the *adhesion* of the mud to my shoes — compare ADHERENCE

2 [*count*] *medical* **:** a condition in which body tissues that are supposed to be separate grow together because of swelling after surgery ▪ postoperative *adhesions*

¹ad·he·sive /æd'hi:sɪv/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] **:** designed to stick to something ▪ Cover the cut with an *adhesive* bandage. ▪ *adhesive* tape

²adhesive *noun, pl* **-sives** [*count*] **:** a substance (such as glue or cement) that is used to make things stick together ▪ You'll need a strong *adhesive* to attach the boards.

ad hoc /'æd'hɑ:k/ *adj*

1 : formed or used for a special purpose ▪ The mayor appointed an ***ad hoc committee*** to study the project.

2 : made or done without planning because of an immediate need ▪ We had to make some *ad hoc* changes to the plans. ▪ We'll hire more staff on an *ad hoc* basis.

– ad hoc *adv* ▪ The decisions were made *ad hoc*.

¹adieu /ə'du:, ə'dju:/ *interj, formal + literary* **:** goodbye or farewell ▪ *Adieu*, my friends.

²adieu *noun, pl* **adieus** *or* **adieux** /ə'du:, ə'dju:/ [*count*] *formal + literary* **:** an expression of good wishes when someone leaves **:** FAREWELL ▪ She bid/wished me *adieu*.

ad in·fi·ni·tum /ˌædˌɪnfə'naɪtəm/ *adv* **:** without an end or limit **:** FOREVER ▪ We don't have to debate the issue *ad infinitum*, do we? ✧ *Ad infinitum* is a Latin phrase that means "to infinity."

adi·os /ˌɑ:di'oʊs, *Brit* ˌædi'ɒs/ *interj, US, informal* **:** GOODBYE ▪ *Adios*! We'll see you tomorrow.

adj *abbr* adjective

ad·ja·cent /ə'ʤeɪsn̩t/ *adj* **:** close or near **:** sharing a border, wall, or point ▪ The other group is meeting in the *adjacent* room. [=the room that is next to this room] ▪ Their property and our property are *adjacent*. [=are next to each other] ▪ The dialect is spoken in New York City and *adjacent* [=*nearby*] areas. — often + *to* ▪ We're meeting in the room *adjacent to* [=*next to*] this one. ▪ Their property and our property are *adjacent to* each other.

ad·jec·tive /'æʤɪktɪv/ *noun, pl* **-tives** [*count*] **:** a word that describes a noun or a pronoun ▪ The words *blue* in "the blue car," *deep* in "the water is deep," and *tired* in "I'm very tired" are *adjectives*. — abbr. *adj*

– ad·jec·ti·val /ˌæʤɪk'taɪvəl/ *adj* ▪ an *adjectival* phrase **– ad·jec·ti·val·ly** *adv* ▪ Use the word *adjectivally*.

ad·join /ə'ʤɔɪn/ *verb* **-joins; -joined -join·ing** *of a building, room, area of land, etc.* **:** to be next to or joined with something [+ *obj*] Her office *adjoins* the library. ▪ The two rooms *adjoin* each other. [*no obj*] The two rooms *adjoin*.

– adjoining *adj* ▪ We reserved *adjoining* rooms at the hotel.

ad·journ /ə'ʤɚn/ *verb* **-journs; -journed; -journ·ing :** to

end something (such as a meeting or session) for a period of time [+ *obj*] The chairperson has *adjourned* the meeting. ▪ Court is *adjourned* until 10:00 tomorrow. ▪ This meeting is *adjourned*. [*no obj*] The meeting *adjourned* at 4:00. ▪ Congress will not *adjourn* until the budget has been completed.

adjourn to [*phrasal verb*] ***adjourn to (a place)*** : to leave one place and go to (another place) after the end of a meeting, discussion, etc. ▪ After the ceremony, we *adjourned to* the garden where lunch was served. — often used humorously ▪ Are we done here? Good, let's *adjourn to* the bar.

– **ad·journ·ment** /əˈʤɚnmənt/ *noun, pl* **-ments** [*count*] a six-hour meeting with only two brief *adjournments* [*noncount*] The *adjournment* of Congress will be delayed until the budget is complete.

ad·judge /əˈʤʌʤ/ *verb* **-judg·es**; **-judged**; **-judg·ing** [+ *obj*] *formal* : to consider or judge (something) in a specified way ▪ The critics have *adjudged* [=(more commonly) *deemed, judged*] the play a success. ▪ The court *adjudged* the contract to be fraudulent.

ad·ju·di·cate /əˈʤuːdɪˌkeɪt/ *verb* **-cates**; **-cat·ed**; **-cat·ing** *formal* : to make an official decision about who is right in a dispute [+ *obj*] The board will *adjudicate* claims made against teachers. ▪ The case was *adjudicated* in the state courts. [*no obj*] The board will *adjudicate* when claims are made against teachers.

– **ad·ju·di·ca·tion** /əˌʤuːdɪˈkeɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the process of *adjudication* ▪ The case is under *adjudication*.

– **ad·ju·di·ca·tor** /əˈʤuːdɪˌkeɪtɚ/ *noun, pl* **-tors** [*count*]

[1]ad·junct /ˈæˌʤʌŋkt/ *noun, pl* **-juncts** [*count*]

1 : something that is joined or added to another thing but is not an essential part of it ▪ Massage therapy can be used as an *adjunct* along with the medication. — usually + *to* ▪ The Web site is designed as an *adjunct to* the book.

2 *grammar* : a word or phrase (such as an adverb or prepositional phrase) that provides added information about the meaning of a verb in a sentence by expressing a relation of time, place, manner, etc. ▪ In "They ate heartily," the word *heartily* is an *adjunct* and in "We left at noon," the phrase *at noon* is an *adjunct*.

[2]adjunct *adj, always used before a noun*

1 : added or joined in order to be used with something ▪ massage therapy as an *adjunct* treatment

2 : added to a teaching staff for only a short time or in a lower position than other staff ▪ *adjunct* faculty ▪ an *adjunct* professor

ad·jure /əˈʤuɚ/ *verb* **-jures**; **-jured**; **-jur·ing** [+ *obj*] *formal* : to urge or command (someone) to do something ▪ He *adjured* his followers to remain faithful to the cause.

ad·just /əˈʤʌst/ *verb* **-justs**; **-just·ed**; **-just·ing**

1 [+ *obj*] **a** : to change (something) in a minor way so that it works better ▪ The car is easier to drive since the clutch was *adjusted*. ▪ I *adjusted* the volume on the radio. **b** : to change the position of (something) ▪ He *adjusted* his glasses/tie. ▪ She *adjusted* the car seat so she could reach the pedals.

2 : to change in order to work or do better in a new situation [*no obj*] Going to a new school can be difficult, but the kids will eventually *adjust*. — often + *to* ▪ The kids will eventually *adjust to* the new school. ▪ Our eyes gradually *adjusted to* the darkness of the cave. ▪ It's hard to *adjust to* the idea that she's gone. [+ *obj*] It's hard to ***adjust myself to*** the idea that she's gone. — see also WELL-ADJUSTED

3 : to make an amount or number more exact by considering other information — usually + *for* [+ *obj*] He actually makes less money now than he did 10 years ago, when you *adjust* his salary *for* inflation. [=when you calculate what his salary would be without inflation] [*no obj*] He makes less money now, when you *adjust for* inflation, than he did 10 years ago.

– **ad·just·able** /əˈʤʌstəbəl/ *adj* ▪ an *adjustable* strap/wrench/waistband – **ad·just·er** *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] — see also INSURANCE ADJUSTER, LOSS ADJUSTER

ad·just·ment /əˈʤʌstmənt/ *noun, pl* **-ments**

1 : a small change that improves something or makes it work better [*count*] The engine only needed a minor *adjustment*. ▪ She made some slight *adjustments* to the recipe. [*noncount*] The engine only needed minor *adjustment*.

2 : a change that makes it possible for a person to do better or work better in a new situation [*count*] Moving from the city to the country requires an *adjustment*. [*noncount*] We went through a period of *adjustment* at the new school.

3 : the act or process of changing or adjusting something (such as a number) [*count*] The figures were calculated with no *adjustments* for inflation. [*noncount*] The figures were calculated with no *adjustment* for inflation.

ad·ju·tant /ˈæʤətənt/ *noun, pl* **-tants** [*count*] : an army officer who helps the commanding officer and is responsible for written communications

ad–lib /ˈædˈlɪb/ *verb* **-libs**; **-libbed**; **-lib·bing** : to make up words or music in a performance instead of saying or playing something that has been planned : IMPROVISE [*no obj*] The actor forgot his lines, so he *ad-libbed*. ▪ a comedian who is admired for his ability to *ad-lib* [+ *obj*] The actor *ad-libbed* his lines. ▪ She *ad-libbed* the guitar solo. ▪ *ad-lib* a joke

– **ad–lib** *noun, pl* **-libs** [*count*] ▪ Some of the best jokes in the movie were *ad-libs*. – **ad–lib** *adj* ▪ an *ad-lib* joke – **ad–lib** *adv* ▪ did the whole dialogue *ad-lib*

ad·man /ˈædˌmæn/ *noun, pl* **ad·men** /-ˌmɛn/ [*count*] *somewhat informal* : a man who writes or sells advertisements

ad·min /ˈædˌmɪn/ *noun* [*noncount*] *Brit, informal* : ADMINISTRATION ▪ You'll have to go see the people in *admin*. ▪ She has a job in *admin*.

ad·min·is·ter /ədˈmɪnɪstɚ/ *verb* **-ters**; **-tered**; **-ter·ing**

1 [+ *obj*] : to manage the operation of (something, such as a company or government) or the use of (something, such as property) ▪ As a cost-saving measure, voters have elected to have the two towns *administered* jointly. ▪ The UN personnel are there to help *administer* the territory. ▪ She's been hired to *administer* the fund.

2 [+ *obj*] : to provide or apply (something, such as justice) : to put (something) into effect ▪ *administer* justice [=give fair rewards and punishments in legal disputes and for crimes] ▪ *administer* punishment

3 [+ *obj*] : to give or present (something) officially or as part of a ceremony ▪ The assistant will *administer* the test. ▪ *administer* an oath ▪ a priest to *administer* the sacraments

4 [+ *obj*] : to give (a drug, medicine, or treatment) to someone ▪ The doctor will *administer* the anesthesia before the surgery begins. ▪ The drug is *administered* by injection.

5 [*no obj*] : to give needed help or care to others — + *to* ▪ *administer* [=(more commonly) *minister*] *to* an ailing friend ▪ *administer to* the needs of the poor

ad·min·is·tra·tion /ədˌmɪnəˈstreɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions**

1 a [*noncount*] : the activities that relate to running a company, school, or other organization ▪ He works in hospital *administration*. [=his work involves management of a hospital] ▪ She has a degree in business *administration*. **b** [*count*] : a group of people who manage the way a company, school, or other organization functions ▪ The editorial criticizes the college's *administration* for not taking a stand on the issue.

2 *or* ***Administration*** [*count*] **a** : a government or part of a government that is identified with its leader (such as a U.S. president or British prime minister) ▪ We studied U.S. foreign policy in/during the Reagan *Administration*. [=during the time when Reagan was President] ▪ the Thatcher *administration* ▪ Her lecture compared the policies of this *administration* to the previous one. ▪ *Administration* officials refused to comment. ▪ At first, the *administration* denied the allegations. **b** : a U.S. government department ▪ The drug has been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug *Administration*.

3 [*noncount*] : the act or process of providing or administering something ▪ the *administration* of justice ▪ oral *administration* of the drug

ad·min·is·tra·tive /ədˈmɪnəˌstreɪtɪv/ *adj* : of or relating to the management of a company, school, or other organization ▪ She has an *administrative* job. ▪ *administrative* tasks/duties ▪ an *administrative* assistant

– **ad·min·is·tra·tive·ly** *adv*

ad·min·is·tra·tor /ədˈmɪnəˌstreɪtɚ/ *noun, pl* **-tors** [*count*] : a person who administers something: such as **a** : a person whose job is to manage a company, school, or other organization ▪ a hospital *administrator* **b** : a person who controls the use of something (such as property or money) ▪ Her eldest son will act as the *administrator* of the estate.

ad·mi·ra·ble /ˈædmrəbəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : deserving to be admired : very good ▪ The film does an *admirable* [=*excellent*] job of depicting life in the 1940s. ▪ Loyalty was her most *admirable* quality. ▪ Their motives were *admirable*.

– **ad·mi·ra·bly** /ˈædmrəbli/ *adv* ▪ He managed the crisis *admirably*.

ad·mi·ral /ˈædmrəl/ *noun, pl* **-rals** [*count*] : a high-ranking officer in the navy

Ad·mi·ral·ty /ˈædmrəlti/ *noun*

the Admiralty : a government department formerly in charge of the British Navy

A

ad•mi•ra•tion /ˌædməˈreɪʃən/ *noun* : a feeling of great respect and approval [*noncount*] She looked at them in *admiration*. ▪ I have/feel great *admiration* for her courage. ▪ We were filled with *admiration* for him. ▪ She earned/won the *admiration* of her coworkers. [*singular*] I have/feel a great *admiration* for her courage.

ad•mire /ədˈmajɚ/ *verb* **-mires**; **-mired**; **-mir•ing** [+ *obj*]
1 : to feel respect or approval for (someone or something) ▪ I *admired* the way he handled the crisis. = I *admired* how he handled the crisis. ▪ We all *admire* her courage. = We all *admire* her for her courage. = She is much *admired* for her courage.
2 : to look at (something or someone) with enjoyment ▪ We gazed out the window and *admired* the scenery.
– **ad•mir•er** *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] ▪ an *admirer* of modern art ▪ a beautiful woman who has many *admirers* – **admiring** *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ She received many *admiring* glances as she walked into the room. – **ad•mir•ing•ly** /ədˈmaɪrɪŋli/ *adv*

ad•mis•si•ble /ədˈmɪsəbəl/ *adj* : able to be admitted or allowed; *especially* : able to be allowed or considered in a legal case ▪ *admissible* evidence ▪ The judge decided that the confession was *admissible* in court. — opposite INADMISSIBLE

ad•mis•sion /ədˈmɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-sions**
1 [*noncount*] : the act of admitting or allowing something ▪ the *admission* of evidence in a court of law
2 [*count*] : a statement or action by which someone admits a weakness, fault, etc. ▪ His statement was interpreted as an *admission* of failure/weakness. ▪ an *admission* of error/defeat ▪ her *admission* of guilt = her *admission* that she was guilty ▪ ***By his own admission***, he is a terrible cook. [=he admits that he is a terrible cook]
3 a [*noncount*] : the right or permission to enter a place ▪ He tried to get into the theater but was refused *admission*. [=he was not allowed to enter] **b** [*noncount*] : the right or permission to join a club, group, etc. ▪ They opposed the *admission* of women into/to the club. ▪ She was unable to gain *admission* into/to the club. = She was denied *admission* into/to the club. **c** : the act or process of accepting a patient in a hospital for treatment [*noncount*] He died several hours after *admission* to the hospital. [=after being admitted to the hospital] ▪ Her injuries were serious enough to require hospital *admission*. ▪ The patient was unconscious on (his) *admission* to the hospital. [=when he was admitted to the hospital] [*count*] a large number of hospital *admissions* **d** : the act or process of accepting someone as a student at a school [*noncount*] The school's standards of *admission* are high. ▪ He submitted an application for *admission* to the school. [*count*] college/university *admissions* ▪ The school has a policy of ***open admissions***. [=a policy of accepting all students who want to go to the school] — often used before another noun ▪ an *admission(s)* exam ▪ an ***admissions officer*** [=an official at a school who is in charge of admitting students]
4 : the cost of entering a theater, sports stadium, museum, etc. [*noncount*] *Admission* (to the museum) is free on Tuesdays. ▪ A movie will be shown in the auditorium tomorrow night. *Admission*: $5 for adults, $2 for children. ▪ The museum offers reduced *admission* for young children. ▪ Her performance by itself was ***worth the price of admission***. [*count*] Reduced *admissions* are available for young children. — often used before another noun ▪ an *admission* fee/charge

ad•mit /ədˈmɪt/ *verb* **-mits**; **-mit•ted**; **-mit•ting** [+ *obj*]
1 : to say usually in an unwilling way that you accept or do not deny the truth or existence of (something) ▪ He *admitted* (to me) that he didn't know the answer. ▪ You know you're wrong. Why don't you *admit* it? [=why don't you say that you're wrong?] ▪ You know you're wrong! *Admit* it! ▪ He finally *admitted* his mistake. [=he stopped denying that he had made a mistake] ▪ I hate to *admit* it, but he's right. ▪ He *admitted* his guilt. = He *admitted* that he was guilty. = He *admitted* being guilty. ▪ I didn't think I'd like the movie, but I ***have to admit*** that it was good. = The movie was good, I *have to admit* (it). = The movie was good, I ***must admit***. ▪ She has refused to ***admit defeat***. [=to admit that she has been defeated] — see also ADMIT TO (below)
2 : to let in (someone or something): such as **a** : to allow (someone) to enter a place ▪ This ticket *admits* one person. ▪ He *admitted* them into his office. **b** : to allow (someone) to join a club, group, etc. ▪ They refused to *admit* her to/into the club. **c** : to accept (someone) as a patient in a hospital ▪ The patient was very sick when she was *admitted* to the hospital. ▪ He was *admitted* last night for chest pains. **d** *law* : to allow (something) to be considered as evidence in a legal case ▪ The judge decided to *admit* the evidence.
admit of [*phrasal verb*] ***admit of (something)*** *formal* : to allow or permit (something, such as an answer or solution) ▪ a question that *admits of* two possible answers
admit to [*phrasal verb*] ***admit to (something)*** : to admit (something) : to acknowledge the truth or existence of (something) ▪ He reluctantly *admitted to* knowing her. [=he admitted knowing her] ▪ He *admitted to* his guilt. = He *admitted to* being guilty. — see also ADMIT 1 (above)
– **admitted** *adj, always used before a noun* ▪ He is an *admitted* liar. [=he has admitted that he lied] – **ad•mit•ted•ly** /ədˈmɪtədli/ *adv* ▪ The movie was a success. *Admittedly*, it cost much more than expected. [=I admit that it cost much more than expected]

ad•mit•tance /ədˈmɪtns/ *noun* [*noncount*] *formal* : permission to enter a place or to become a member of a club, group, etc. : permission to be admitted : ADMISSION ▪ gain *admittance* ▪ He tried to enter the restaurant but was refused *admittance*. ▪ They opposed the *admittance* of women into the club. ▪ The sign said "No *Admittance*."

ad•mix•ture /ædˈmɪkstʃɚ/ *noun, pl* **-tures** [*count*]
1 *technical* : something added by mixing ▪ an alloy that includes a small *admixture* of silver
2 : something formed by mixing : MIXTURE — not used technically ▪ Her feelings about starting the business were an *admixture* of fear and excitement.

ad•mon•ish /ædˈmɑːnɪʃ/ *verb* **-ish•es**; **-ished**; **-ish•ing** [+ *obj*] *formal*
1 : to speak to (someone) in a way that expresses disapproval or criticism — often + *for* ▪ His mother *admonished* him *for* shouting. ▪ We were *admonished for* arriving late.
2 : to tell or urge (someone) to do something ▪ She *admonished* [=*urged*] them to keep trying. ▪ They *admonished* [=*encouraged*] her to control her spending. ▪ They were *admonished* to take advantage of the opportunity.
– **ad•mon•ish•ment** /ædˈmɑːnɪʃmənt/ *noun, pl* **-ments** [*count, noncount*]

ad•mo•ni•tion /ˌædməˈnɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** *formal* : a criticism or warning about behavior [*count*] a stern *admonition* ▪ an *admonition* to be careful [*noncount*] He offered words of advice and *admonition*.
– **ad•mon•i•to•ry** /ədˈmɑːnəˌtʰori, *Brit* ədˈmɒnətri/ *adj* ▪ *admonitory* remarks

ad nau•se•am /ædˈnɑːzijəm/ *adv* — used to say that something happens or is done so many times or for such a long time that it makes people annoyed, disgusted, etc. ▪ We debated the issue *ad nauseam* without reaching an agreement.
✧ *Ad nauseam* is a Latin phrase that means "to sickness."

ado /əˈduː/ *noun* [*noncount*] : foolish or unnecessary talk, trouble, or activity — often used with *much* ▪ There has been *much ado* about the need for campaign reform. ▪ The controversy turned out to be *much ado* about nothing.
without further ado : without waiting any longer : right away ▪ *Without further ado*, I'd like to introduce our speaker.

ado•be /əˈdoʊbi/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a type of brick made of a mixture of mud and straw that is dried by the sun ▪ The house was built of *adobe*. — often used before another noun ▪ *adobe* bricks/walls/houses

ad•o•les•cence /ˌædəˈlɛsn̩s/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the period of life when a child develops into an adult ▪ Their children are on the verge of *adolescence*. ▪ He struggled through his *adolescence*. ▪ in early/late *adolescence*

ad•o•les•cent /ˌædəˈlɛsn̩t/ *noun, pl* **-cents** [*count*] : a young person who is developing into an adult : a young person who is going through adolescence ▪ Their children are now *adolescents*. ▪ a troubled *adolescent*
– **adolescent** *adj* ▪ an *adolescent* boy/girl

adopt /əˈdɑːpt/ *verb* **adopts**; **adopt•ed**; **adopt•ing**
1 : to take a child of other parents legally as your own child [*no obj*] They were unable to have children of their own, so they decided to *adopt*. [+ *obj*] They decided to *adopt* a child. ▪ He was *adopted* as an infant.
2 [+ *obj*] **a** : to begin to use or have (a different manner, method, etc.) ▪ Their boss has recently *adopted* a friendlier manner. [=has started behaving in a friendlier way] ▪ Did he *adopt* your point of view? ▪ We *adopted* some of the local customs. **b** : to begin to use (a name that is not your real or original name) ▪ The author Samuel Clemens *adopted* the name "Mark Twain." **c** : to live in (a country that is not your original country) and regard it as your home ▪ He was born in England but he has *adopted* Canada as his home.

3 [+ *obj*] : to accept or approve (something, such as a proposal) in a formal or official way ▪ The assembly *adopted* a new constitution. ▪ The resolution was unanimously *adopted* by the Senate.

4 [+ *obj*] *chiefly Brit* : to select (someone) officially as a candidate ▪ The party *adopted* [=*selected, chose*] her as its candidate for mayor.

– **adopted** *adj* ▪ an *adopted* child [=a child who has been adopted] ▪ She is their *adopted* daughter. ▪ "Mark Twain" was the ***adopted name*** of Samuel Clemens. ▪ Canada is his ***adopted country***.

adop·tion /ə'dɑ:pʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** : the act or process of adopting someone or something: such as **a** : the act or process of adopting a child [*noncount*] They chose *adoption* because they couldn't have children of their own. ▪ children who are available for *adoption* ▪ an *adoption* agency ▪ She decided to ***put/give the baby up for adoption***. [=to make it possible for other people to adopt the baby] [*count*] Our lawyer has handled many *adoptions*. **b** [*noncount*] : the act or process of beginning to use something new or different ▪ our *adoption* of local customs ▪ the company's *adoption* of new technology **c** [*noncount*] : the act or process of giving official acceptance or approval to something ▪ the unanimous *adoption* of the resolution by the Senate

adop·tive /ə'dɑ:ptɪv/ *adj, always used before a noun* — used to describe a parent who has adopted a child ▪ She is their adopted daughter, which makes them her *adoptive* parents. [=the parents who adopted her]

ador·able /ə'dorəbəl/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : very appealing or attractive : very lovable ▪ He is an *adorable* [=*delightful*] child. ▪ They live in an *adorable* little cottage.

– **ador·ably** /ə'dorəbli/ *adv* ▪ an *adorably* cute child

ad·o·ra·tion /ˌædə'reɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] : strong feelings of love or admiration ▪ They looked at the baby in/with *adoration*. ▪ The doctor has earned the *adoration* of his patients.

adore /ə'doə/ *verb* **adores**; **adored**; **ador·ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to love or admire (someone) very much ▪ She *adores* her son. ▪ He's a good doctor. All his patients *adore* him.

2 : to like or desire (something) very much : to take great pleasure in (something) ▪ He *adores* [=*loves*] chocolate. ▪ They *adored* shopping in all the boutiques.

– **adoring** *adj* ▪ a star athlete and his *adoring* fans [=his fans who adore him]

adorn /ə'doən/ *verb* **adorns**; **adorned**; **adorn·ing** [+ *obj*] *somewhat formal* : to make (someone or something) more attractive by adding something beautiful : DECORATE ▪ Her paintings *adorn* the walls. — often + *with* ▪ They *adorned* themselves *with* jewelry. ▪ She wore a dress *adorned with* lace and silk flowers. ▪ The walls are *adorned with* her paintings.

adorn·ment /ə'doənmənt/ *noun, pl* **-ments**

1 [*noncount*] : the act or process of making someone or something attractive by decorating : the act or process of adorning someone or something ▪ the *adornment* of the walls with her paintings

2 : something added to make a person or thing more attractive [*count*] Her room doesn't have any unnecessary *adornments*. [*noncount*] The entrance to the building has little *adornment*.

adren·a·line *or chiefly Brit* **adren·a·lin** /ə'drɛnələn/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a substance that is released in the body of a person who is feeling a strong emotion (such as excitement, fear, or anger) and that causes the heart to beat faster and gives the person more energy ▪ It was a thrilling experience that really got our *adrenaline* going. [=got us very excited] ✧ If you experience a ***rush of adrenaline*** or an ***adrenaline rush***, you feel very excited and full of energy. ▪ I felt a *rush of adrenaline* as I walked onto the stage.

adrift /ə'drɪft/ *adj*

1 *of a boat* : floating on the water without being tied to anything or controlled by anyone ▪ We could see a ship *adrift* [=*drifting*] in the storm. ▪ The canoe was set/cast *adrift* from its moorings.

2 : without guidance, purpose, or support ▪ She was alone and *adrift* in the city. ▪ Many workers were ***cast adrift*** by massive layoffs.

3 *Brit* : behind by a specified amount in a race, competition, etc. ▪ He was eight points *adrift* (of the leader).

come adrift *chiefly Brit* : to become loose or unattached ▪ One of the straps on her dress *came adrift*.

adroit /ə'droɪt/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : very clever or skillful ▪ an *adroit* negotiator ▪ She is *adroit* at handling problems.

– **adroit·ly** *adv* ▪ She managed the situation *adroitly*.

– **adroit·ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

ad·u·la·tion /ˌædʒə'leɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] : extreme admiration or praise ▪ The rugby player enjoyed the *adulation* of his fans. ▪ a writer who inspires *adulation* in her readers

[1]adult /ə'dʌlt, 'æˌdʌlt/ *noun, pl* **adults** [*count*] : a fully grown person or animal ▪ Her books appeal both to children and to *adults*. ▪ Children must be accompanied by an *adult* in the museum. ▪ Only *adults* can purchase alcohol. ▪ This film is for *adults* only. Minors are not admitted. ▪ People who are close friends as children aren't always friends as *adults*. ▪ studying interactions between young birds and *adults*

[2]adult *adj, always used before a noun except in sense 2*

1 : fully grown and developed ▪ an *adult* student/learner ▪ *adult* birds ▪ I've worked here all of my ***adult life***. [=I've worked here since I became an adult] ▪ preparing children for *adult life*

2 [*more ~; most ~*] : mature and sensible : not childish ▪ We need to approach this in an *adult* way. ▪ an *adult* decision/choice/responsibility

3 : of or intended for adults ▪ *adult* literacy ▪ *adult* learning

4 : dealing with sexual material ▪ *adult* bookstores/movies

– **adult·hood** /ə'dʌltˌhʊd/ *noun, pl* **-hoods** [*noncount*] preparing children for *adulthood* [*count*] preparing children for their *adulthoods*

adult education *noun* [*noncount*] : a course of study for adults : CONTINUING EDUCATION ▪ The university offers a popular program of *adult education*.

adul·ter·ate /ə'dʌltəˌreɪt/ *verb* **-ates**; **-at·ed**; **-at·ing** [+ *obj*] : to make (something, such as a food or drink) impure or weaker by adding something of poor quality ▪ The company is accused of *adulterating* its products with cheap additives.

– **adulterated** *adj* ▪ *adulterated* food – **adul·ter·a·tion** /əˌdʌltə'reɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*]

adul·ter·er /ə'dʌltərə/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : a married person who has sex with someone who is not that person's wife or husband : a person who commits adultery

adulter·ess /ə'dʌltərəs/ *noun, pl* **-ess·es** [*count*] : a married woman who has sex with a man who is not her husband : a woman who commits adultery

adul·tery /ə'dʌltəri/ *noun* [*noncount*] : sex between a married person and someone who is not that person's wife or husband ▪ He found out that his wife had committed *adultery*. ▪ She accused her husband of *adultery*.

– **adul·ter·ous** /ə'dʌltərəs/ *adj* ▪ an *adulterous* affair/relationship – **adul·ter·ous·ly** *adv*

adv *abbr* adverb

[1]ad·vance /əd'væns, *Brit* əd'vɑ:ns/ *verb* **-vanc·es**; **-vanced**; **-vanc·ing**

1 a [*no obj*] : to move forward ▪ The car *advanced* slowly down the street. ▪ The sun slowly *advanced* across the sky. ▪ She opened the door and *advanced* cautiously into the room. ▪ Enemy soldiers are ***advancing on*** the city. [=they are approaching the city in order to attack it] **b** [+ *obj*] : to move (someone or something) forward ▪ *advance* the hands of a clock ▪ *advance* a pawn [=move a pawn forward in a game of chess] ▪ The film is *advanced* by an electric motor. ▪ The team *advanced* the ball steadily down the field.

2 [*no obj*] : to go forward : to make progress ▪ Our understanding of this disease has *advanced* rapidly in recent years. ▪ The team did not *advance* beyond the first round of the play-offs. ▪ The company tries to keep up with *advancing* technology. : to continue in a process of development, aging, etc. ▪ As he *advanced* in age and stature he *advanced* in knowledge. ▪ Their children are *advancing* toward maturity.

3 : to increase in amount or rate [+ *obj*] These measures are intended to keep landlords from *advancing* [=*raising*] rents unfairly. [*no obj*] Wages have continued to *advance*. ▪ Some stock prices have *advanced* while others have declined. ▪ Loss of memory is often a sign of *advancing* age.

4 [+ *obj*] **a** : to help the progress of (something) ▪ heroes whose sacrifices *advanced* the cause of freedom ▪ Volunteers have been raising money to *advance* the work of the society. ▪ They used propaganda to *advance* their cause. ▪ He was *advancing* his own interests at the expense of his friend's. : to cause or help (something) to go forward or continue ▪ *advance* a plot **b** : to make (something) higher or better : to cause improvement to (something) ▪ The success of this novel will help to *advance* [=*enhance*] his reputation/status.

5 a [+ *obj*] : to raise (someone) to a higher rank or position ▪ He was *advanced* [=*promoted*] from clerk to assistant manager. **b** [*no obj*] : to rise to a higher rank or position ▪ The fam-

A

ily has *advanced* to a position of influence in the community. ▪ He *advanced* quickly through the ranks. ▪ She has continued to *advance* steadily in her career.

6 [+ *obj*] : to give money to someone as a loan or before the usual time ▪ *advance* a loan to someone = *advance* someone a loan ▪ *advance* an employee a week's pay ▪ His publisher *advanced* him $100,000 on/for his new book.

7 [+ *obj*] : to suggest or propose (something) for consideration or acceptance ▪ *advance* a new plan/theory ▪ *advance* an argument ▪ Many theories were *advanced* and rejected.

8 [+ *obj*] **a** : to cause (something) to occur more quickly ▪ a chemical used to *advance* the ripening of fruit **b** : to make (something) earlier ▪ *advance* the date of the meeting

– **ad•vanc•er** *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] ▪ There were more *advancers* [=stocks that increased in value] than decliners in the stock market yesterday.

²advance *noun, pl* **-vances**

1 : forward movement [*noncount*] trying to halt the enemy's *advance* [*count*] trying to halt the enemy's *advances*

2 : progress in the development or improvement of something [*count*] recent *advances* in medicine ▪ a big/dramatic/huge/major/significant *advance* in technology ▪ The new system represents a considerable *advance* over the old one. ▪ There have been few *advances* made in the treatment of this disease. [*noncount*] There has been little *advance* made in the treatment of this disease. ▪ policies that are important for economic *advance* [=*advancement*]

3 [*count*] : a rise in price, value, or amount ▪ The workers won wage *advances*. ▪ a yearlong *advance* in stock prices

4 [*count*] : the act of speaking to someone in an effort to start a sexual relationship — usually plural ▪ Her unfriendly look discourages *advances*. ▪ She rebuffed/rejected his *advances*. ▪ He is accused of making unwelcome sexual *advances* to female coworkers.

5 [*count*] : money given to someone as a loan or before the usual time of payment ▪ I need an *advance* on my salary. ▪ He was given a $100,000 *advance* on/for his new book. ▪ a cash *advance*

in advance : before something happens ▪ He knew about the change two weeks *in advance*. [=two weeks before the change occurred] ▪ There was no way to know *in advance* [=*ahead of time*] that these problems would occur. : before a future event or time ▪ We made reservations *in advance*. ▪ You should call *in advance* to make an appointment. ▪ Thank you *in advance* for your help. — often + *of* ▪ They began to make preparations several days *in advance of* [=*before, ahead of*] her arrival.

³advance *adj, always used before a noun*

1 : made, sent, or provided at an early time ▪ an *advance* payment ▪ an *advance* warning ▪ an *advance* copy of a new book

2 : going or placed before others ▪ an *advance* guard ▪ an *advance* scout ▪ (*US*) an ***advance man/woman/team*** [=a man, woman, or group whose job is to go to a place and make preparations for someone (such as a politician or an entertainer) who is coming to visit that place at a later time]

ad•vanced /əd'vænst, *Brit* əd'vɑ:nst/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

1 : beyond the basic level ▪ *advanced* mathematics ▪ She's taking an *advanced* course in English. = She's taking a course in *advanced* English. ▪ The school has courses for elementary, intermediate, and *advanced* students. ▪ The book explains both basic and *advanced* techniques. ▪ The job requires someone with an ***advanced degree***. [=a degree (such as a master's degree or a PhD) that is higher than a bachelor's degree]

2 : far along in a course of progress or development: such as **a** : having developed more than others ▪ a highly *advanced* civilization [=a modern civilization] ▪ an *advanced* society **b** : having or using new and modern methods ▪ *advanced* technology ▪ technologically *advanced* weapons ▪ The system has many *advanced* features. **c** : having reached a bad state or condition ▪ The house was in an *advanced* state of disrepair. [=the house was in very poor condition] ▪ The disease is in an *advanced* stage. ▪ an *advanced* form of cancer **d** : far along in a process of aging ▪ She began painting ***at an advanced age***. [=she began painting when she was old] ▪ He is rather ***advanced in age/years***. [=rather old] ▪ a man/woman ***of advanced age/years*** [=an old man/woman]

Advanced level *noun, pl* ~ **levels** [*count*] *Brit* : A LEVEL

ad•vance•ment /əd'vænsmənt, *Brit* əd'vɑ:nsmənt/ *noun, pl* **-ments** : the act of advancing: such as **a** : the act of moving forward [*noncount*] They have been unable to slow the *advancement* [=*advance*] of the enemy troops. ▪ A motor inside the camera is used for *advancement* of the film. [*count*] troop *advancements* [=(more commonly) *advances*] **b** : the act or result of making something better, more successful, etc. [*noncount*] She contributed greatly to the *advancement* of the new organization. ▪ working for the *advancement* of learning/science/truth ▪ The program supports economic *advancement* in rural areas. [*count*] There have been many recent *advancements* [=*advances, improvements*] in this technology. ▪ This new method is a great *advancement* over past techniques. **c** : the act of being raised to a higher rank or position [*noncount*] The job offers many opportunities for professional *advancement*. ▪ His *advancement* [=*promotion*] to captain came last year. ▪ He is being considered for *advancement*. ▪ career *advancement* ▪ social *advancement* [*count*] a series of rapid career *advancements*

ad•van•tage /əd'væntɪʤ, *Brit* əd'vɑ:ntɪʤ/ *noun, pl* **-tag•es**

1 [*count*] **a** : something (such as a good position or condition) that helps to make someone or something better or more likely to succeed than others ▪ Higher ground gave the enemy the/an *advantage*. ▪ He has/enjoys an unfair *advantage* over us because of his wealth. ▪ His plan has the *advantage* of being less expensive than other options. ▪ He lacked the *advantages* of an advanced education. ▪ Speed is an *advantage* in most sports. ▪ The company's only *advantage* over the competition is its location. ▪ Applicants for this job will find that previous experience is an *advantage*. ▪ The union should be ***at an advantage*** [=should have an advantage] in the negotiations. **b** : a good or desirable quality or feature ▪ Being able to set your own schedule is one of the *advantages* of owning a business. ▪ Among the *advantages* of a small college is its campus life. — opposite DISADVANTAGE

2 [*noncount*] : benefit or gain ▪ There isn't any *advantage* in/to leaving early. ▪ She used her position for personal *advantage*. [=for personal gain; to help herself] ▪ The error was ***to our advantage***. [=we were helped by the error] — opposite DISADVANTAGE ✧ If you ***turn/use something to your advantage*** or ***to good advantage***, you use something in a way that is helpful to you. ▪ Is there a way to *turn this situation to our advantage*? [=is there a way to exploit this situation?; is there a way to take advantage of this situation?]

3 [*noncount*] *tennis* : the first point won after the score is tied at 40–40 — used to announce the person who has won the point ▪ *Advantage* Mr. Jones.

take advantage of **1** : to use (something, such as an opportunity) in a way that helps you : to make good use of (something) ▪ We *took advantage of* the warm weather and did some yard work. ▪ They are *taking advantage of* an opportunity to travel. ▪ You should *take* (full) *advantage of* this opportunity while you can. **2 a** : to ask for or expect more than is fair or reasonable from (someone) : to treat (someone who is generous or helpful) unfairly ▪ After a while, I began to think she was *taking advantage of* me. **b** : to use (something) unfairly for personal gain ▪ He *took advantage of* [=*exploited*] my lack of knowledge. ▪ She *took advantage of* our generosity.

to advantage : in an attractive and appealing way ▪ The display shows off the collection *to* (good/best) *advantage*.

ad•van•taged /əd'væntɪʤd, *Brit* əd'vɑ:ntɪʤd/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : having or providing the things (such as money and education) that are considered necessary for a good position in society : having or providing advantages over other people : PRIVILEGED ▪ *advantaged* children ▪ He comes from an *advantaged* community/background. ▪ an *advantaged* position

ad•van•ta•geous /ˌædˌvæn'teɪʤəs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : helpful or favorable : giving an advantage to someone ▪ He found it *advantageous* [=*beneficial*] to arrive early. ▪ These changes will be *advantageous* to you. [=will help you] ▪ Her experience placed her in an *advantageous* position to apply for the job. — opposite DISADVANTAGEOUS

– **ad•van•ta•geous•ly** *adv* ▪ Where can we invest the money most *advantageously*?

ad•vent /'ædˌvɛnt/ *noun*

1 [*singular*] : the time when something begins or arrives : the first appearance of something ▪ the *advent* of spring ▪ the *advent* of the printing press ▪ the *advent* of personal computers

2 ***Advent*** [*noncount*] *in the Christian religion* : the period of time beginning four Sundays before Christmas ▪ Our church is holding some special services during *Advent*.

ad•ven•ture /əd'vɛnʧɚ/ *noun, pl* **-tures**

1 [*count*] : an exciting or dangerous experience ▪ The field trip was an *adventure* for the students. ▪ He told us about his

camping *adventures*. — often used before another noun ▪ an *adventure* story/novel

2 [*noncount*] : danger or excitement ▪ He has a strong spirit/sense of *adventure*. [=he enjoys doing dangerous and exciting things] ▪ They were looking for *adventure*.

adventure playground *noun, pl* ~ **-grounds** [*count*] *Brit* : an outdoor area that has objects on which children can climb and play

ad•ven•tur•er /ədˈvɛntʃərɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]

1 : someone who likes dangerous or exciting experiences : a person who looks for adventures

2 *somewhat old-fashioned* : a person who tries to become wealthy or powerful by doing things that are illegal or dishonest ▪ corporate *adventurers*

ad•ven•ture•some /ədˈvɛntʃərsəm/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *chiefly US* : liking to do dangerous and exciting things : seeking adventure ▪ an *adventuresome* [=*adventurous*] explorer

ad•ven•tur•ism /ədˈvɛntʃəˌrɪzəm/ *noun* [*noncount*] *disapproving* : an attitude or way of behaving that involves attempting to gain an advantage by doing things that are regarded as foolish or risky ▪ military *adventurism*
– **ad•ven•tur•ist** /ədˈvɛntʃərɪst/ *noun, pl* **-ists** [*count*]

ad•ven•tur•ous /ədˈvɛntʃərəs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

1 a : not afraid to do new and dangerous or exciting things ▪ The island attracts *adventurous* travelers. ▪ He is an *adventurous* cook who is always trying new recipes. **b** : exciting or unusual ▪ Her design is an *adventurous* departure from what we usually see. ▪ The restaurant offers an *adventurous* [=*innovative*] menu.

2 : full of danger and excitement ▪ They have an *adventurous* lifestyle. ▪ an *adventurous* trip/vacation

ad•verb /ˈædˌvɚb/ *noun, pl* **-verbs** [*count*] : a word that describes a verb, an adjective, another adverb, or a sentence and that is often used to show time, manner, place, or degree ▪ In "arrived early," "runs slowly," "stayed home," and "works hard" the words "early," "slowly," "home," and "hard" are *adverbs*.
– **ad•ver•bi•al** /ædˈvɚbijəl/ *adj* ▪ an *adverbial* phrase ▪ In some sentences the word "likely" is *adverbial* rather than adjectival. ▪ the *adverbial* suffix "-ly" – **ad•ver•bi•ally** *adv*

ad•ver•sar•i•al /ˌædvɚˈserijəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *formal* : involving two people or two sides who oppose each other ▪ The two men have always had an *adversarial* relationship. [=they have always opposed each other; they have always treated each other as adversaries] ▪ an *adversarial* system of justice with prosecution and defense opposing each other

ad•ver•sary /ˈædvɚˌseri, *Brit* ˈædvəsri/ *noun, pl* **-sar•ies** [*count*] *formal* : an enemy or opponent ▪ His political *adversaries* tried to prevent him from winning the nomination.

ad•verse /ædˈvɚs, ˈædˌvɚs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : bad or unfavorable : not good ▪ *adverse* criticism/remarks ▪ He had an *adverse* reaction to the medicine. [=he reacted badly to the medicine; the medicine had a bad effect on him] ▪ Many fear that budget cuts will have an *adverse* [=*damaging*] effect on education. ▪ *adverse* circumstances/conditions/weather ▪ The drug has no *adverse* [=*harmful*] side effects.
– **ad•verse•ly** *adv* ▪ Sales were *adversely* affected by the bad weather. ▪ Staff changes could affect the project *adversely*.

ad•ver•si•ty /ædˈvɚsəti/ *noun, pl* **-ties** : a difficult situation or condition : misfortune or tragedy [*noncount*] He showed courage in the face of *adversity*. ▪ We had to learn to deal with *adversity*. [*count*] They overcame many *adversities*.

ad•vert /ˈædˌvɚt/ *noun, pl* **-verts** [*count*] *Brit, informal* : ADVERTISEMENT ▪ I saw your *advert* in the newspaper.

ad•ver•tise /ˈædvɚˌtaɪz/ *verb* **-tis•es; -tised; -tis•ing**

1 : to make the public aware of something (such as a product) that is being sold [+ *obj*] They are *advertising* the new edition of the book. ▪ The vacation was *advertised* as a week in paradise. ▪ It turned out to be exactly as *advertised*. [*no obj*] Business increased after we began to *advertise* on the radio. ▪ If you want to attract customers, it pays to *advertise*.

2 : to make a public announcement (in a newspaper, on the Internet, etc.) about something that is wanted or available [*no obj*] The company is *advertising* for a secretary. [+ *obj*] We *advertised* the job in the paper.

3 [+ *obj*] : to cause people to notice (something) ▪ You don't have to *advertise* [=*draw attention to*] the fact that we arrived late. ▪ She *advertised* her presence by wearing a skimpy dress.
– **ad•ver•tis•er** *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] ▪ television *advertisers* [=companies that advertise on television]

ad•ver•tise•ment /ˌædvɚˈtaɪzmənt, *Brit* ədˈvə:təsmənt/ *noun, pl* **-ments**

1 [*count*] : something (such as a short film or a written notice) that is shown or presented to the public to help sell a product or to make an announcement ▪ The *advertisement* will appear in three magazines. ▪ He learned about the job from an *advertisement* in the newspaper. ▪ a television/radio *advertisement* — often + *for* ▪ I saw an *advertisement for* a new car on TV last night. — called also *ad*, (*Brit*) *advert*

2 [*count*] : a person or thing that shows how good or effective something is — + *for* ▪ The rusted car on the lot was not much of an *advertisement for* the car dealership. ▪ Successful graduates are a good *advertisement for* a school.

3 [*noncount*] : the act or process of advertising ▪ The company has spent a lot of money on *advertisement*.

ad•ver•tis•ing /ˈædvɚˌtaɪzɪŋ/ *noun* [*noncount*]

1 : published or broadcast advertisements ▪ There is a lot of *advertising* in that magazine.

2 : the business of creating advertisements ▪ He is looking for a job in *advertising*. ▪ She works for an ***advertising agency*** [=(*chiefly US*) *ad agency*] in New York.

ad•vice /ədˈvaɪs/ *noun* [*noncount*] : an opinion or suggestion about what someone should do ▪ My *advice* is to sell your old car and get a new one. ▪ Take my *advice* and sell your old car. ▪ He needs *advice* from an expert. ▪ She's been giving him some expert *advice* about investing. ▪ "May I ask your *advice* about/on something?" "Certainly. I'm always happy to give *advice* when asked for it." ▪ Let me offer you a bit/piece/word of *advice*. = Let me offer you some *advice*. ▪ I took/followed my doctor's *advice* and lost some weight. = I lost some weight ***on the advice of*** my doctor.

advice column *noun, pl* ~ **-umns** [*count*] *US* : an article in a newspaper or magazine that offers advice to people who write to ask for help with a problem — called also (*Brit*) *agony column*
– **advice columnist** *noun, pl* ~ **-nists** [*count*]

ad•vis•able /ədˈvaɪzəbəɫ/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : wise, sensible, or reasonable ▪ The restaurant is very popular so it is *advisable* to make reservations if you go. [=it's a good idea to make reservations] ▪ My doctor said it was *advisable* for me to lose weight. — opposite INADVISABLE
– **ad•vis•abil•i•ty** /ədˌvaɪzəˈbɪləti/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ I question the *advisability* of going into the park alone at night.

ad•vise /ədˈvaɪz/ *verb* **-vis•es; -vised; -vis•ing**

1 a : to give an opinion or suggestion to someone about what should be done : to give advice to (someone) [+ *obj*] I strongly *advise* you to sell your old car. ▪ We *advised* them to save their money. ▪ My doctor *advised* me to lose some weight. ▪ She *advises* the President on foreign affairs. ▪ Our lawyer ***advised us against*** buying that house. [=she told us that we shouldn't buy that house] [*no obj*] We were thinking of buying that house, but our lawyer ***advised against*** it. **b** [+ *obj*] : to recommend or suggest (something) ▪ I *advise* selling your old car. ▪ We were thinking of buying that house, but our lawyer *advised* caution. [=said that we should be cautious] ▪ He *advises* patience/restraint when dealing with children. — see also ILL-ADVISED, WELL-ADVISED

2 [+ *obj*] *formal* : to give information to (someone) ▪ The police *advised* them of their rights. [=the police told them what their legal rights were] ▪ She says she was never *advised* [=*informed, told*] about the new procedures. ▪ We *advised* [=*apprised*] them of the danger. ▪ The boss asked us to ***keep him advised*** about/on how the project is going.
– **ad•vis•er** *also* **ad•vi•sor** /ədˈvaɪzɚ/ *noun, pl* **-visers** *also* **-visors** [*count*] ▪ a financial/legal/medical *adviser* ▪ She's an *adviser* to the President on foreign affairs.

ad•vis•ed•ly /ədˈvaɪzədli/ *adv, formal* : in a deliberate way ▪ They have misled us—and I use the word "misled" *advisedly*.

ad•vise•ment /ədˈvaɪzmənt/ *noun*
take (something) under advisement *US, formal* : to consider (something) carefully ▪ Thank you for your suggestion. We'll *take* the matter *under advisement*.

[1]ad•vi•so•ry /ədˈvaɪzəri/ *adj* : having the power or right to make suggestions about what should be done : able to give advice ▪ He attended a meeting of the *advisory* committee/board/panel. ▪ She is acting in an *advisory* role/capacity in the administration.

[2]advisory *noun, pl* **-ries** [*count*] *US* : a report that gives information or a warning about something ▪ We heard a weather *advisory* saying that heavy rains are expected tonight. ▪ a traffic *advisory*

ad•vo•ca•cy /ˈædvəkəsi/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the act or process of supporting a cause or proposal : the act or process of

A

advocating something ▪ She is known for her *advocacy* of birth control. [=she is known for advocating/supporting birth control]

[1]ad•vo•cate /ˈædvəkət/ *noun, pl* **-cates** [*count*]
1 a : a person who argues for or supports a cause or policy ▪ a birth control *advocate* = an *advocate* of birth control [=a person who advocates birth control] ▪ a passionate/impassioned *advocate* of civil rights **b** *US* : a person who works for a cause or group ▪ a women's health *advocate* = an *advocate* for women's health ▪ She works as a consumer *advocate*.
2 : a person who argues for the cause of another person in a court of law : LAWYER

[2]ad•vo•cate /ˈædvəˌkeɪt/ *verb* **-cates**; **-cat•ed**; **-cat•ing** [+ *obj*] : to support or argue for (a cause, policy, etc.) ▪ He *advocates* traditional teaching methods. ▪ They *advocate* abolishing the income tax. = They *advocate* that the income tax should be abolished. ▪ The plan is *advocated* by the president.

adze *also* **adz** /ˈædz/ *noun, pl* **adz•es** [*count*] : a cutting tool that has a thin curved blade and that is usually used for shaping wood

ae•gis /ˈiːʤəs/ *noun* [*singular*] *formal* : the power to protect, control, or support something or someone — used in the phrase ***under the aegis of*** ▪ Their rights are protected *under the aegis* [=*authority*] *of* the law. ▪ The issue will be decided *under the aegis of* an international organization.

ae•on *chiefly Brit spelling of* EON

aer•ate /ˈeəˌeɪt/ *verb* **-ates**; **-at•ed**; **-at•ing** [+ *obj*] : to put air or a gas into (something, such as soil or a liquid) ▪ You should *aerate* the soil before planting the seeds.
– **aer•a•tion** /ˌeəˈeɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the *aeration* of soil

[1]ae•ri•al /ˈerijəl/ *adj*
1 : performed in the air ▪ the spectacular *aerial* acrobatics of the circus performers
2 : performed using an airplane ▪ *aerial* combat ▪ an *aerial* attack ▪ *aerial* photography : taken or seen from an airplane ▪ *aerial* photographs ▪ an *aerial* view

[2]aerial *noun, pl* **-als** [*count*]
1 *chiefly Brit* : ANTENNA 2 ▪ a broken radio *aerial*
2 : a difficult movement of the body performed by an athlete (such as a skier) in the air ▪ She tried a new *aerial* in her last competition.

ae•rie (*US*) *or chiefly Brit* **ey•rie** /ˈeri/ *noun, pl* **-ries** [*count*]
1 : the nest of a bird (such as an eagle or hawk) built high up on a cliff or on the top of a mountain
2 : a room or building built high up so that people inside can see things happening below them

aero- *also* **aer-** *combining form*
1 : air ▪ *aero*bic ▪ *aero*dynamics ▪ *aer*ate
2 : gas ▪ *aero*sol
3 : dealing with airplanes or flying ▪ *aero*nautics

aer•o•bat•ics /ˌerəˈbætɪks/ *noun* [*plural*] : difficult and exciting movements of an airplane often performed for entertainment ▪ loops, spins, and other *aerobatics*
– **aer•o•bat•ic** /ˌerəˈbætɪk/ *adj* ▪ *aerobatic* maneuvers

aer•o•bic /ˌeəˈoʊbɪk/ *adj*
1 *of exercise* : strengthening the heart and lungs by making them work hard for several minutes or more ▪ *aerobic* exercises like running and swimming ▪ an *aerobic* workout
2 *technical* : using oxygen ▪ *aerobic* organisms such as bacteria — opposite ANAEROBIC

aer•o•bics /ˌeəˈoʊbɪks/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a system of exercises often done by a group of people while music is playing : a system of aerobic exercises ▪ an instructor teaching *aerobics* — often used before another noun ▪ an *aerobics* class; *also* [*plural*] : aerobic exercises ▪ She does *aerobics* three days a week.

aero•dy•nam•ics /ˌeroʊdaɪˈnæmɪks/ *noun*
1 [*noncount*] : a science that studies the movement of air and the way that objects (such as airplanes or cars) move through air ▪ She has a degree in *aerodynamics*.
2 [*plural*] : the qualities of an object that affect how easily it is able to move through the air ▪ Its improved *aerodynamics* give the car more speed and better gas mileage.
– **aero•dy•nam•ic** /ˌeroʊdaɪˈnæmɪk/ *adj* ▪ the airplane's *aerodynamic* shape/design – **aero•dy•nam•ic•al•ly** /ˌeroʊdaɪˈnæmɪkli/ *adv*

aero•nau•tics /ˌerəˈnɑːtɪks/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a science that deals with airplanes and flying ▪ the history of *aeronautics*
– **aero•nau•ti•cal** /ˌerəˈnɑːtɪkəl/ *adj* ▪ an *aeronautical* engineer [=a scientist who designs and builds airplanes]

aero•plane /ˈerəˌpleɪn/ *noun, pl* **-planes** [*count*] *Brit* : AIRPLANE

aero•sol /ˈerəˌsɑːl/ *noun, pl* **-sols** : a substance (such as hair spray or medicine) that is kept in a container under pressure and that is released as a fine spray when a button is pressed [*count*] chemicals used in *aerosols* [*noncount*] a can of *aerosol* — often used before another noun ▪ an *aerosol* container/can/spray

aero•space /ˈeroʊˌspeɪs/ *noun* [*noncount*] : an industry that deals with travel in and above the Earth's atmosphere and with the production of vehicles used in such travel ▪ a career in *aerospace* — often used before another noun ▪ The airplane was designed using the latest in *aerospace* technology. ▪ *aerospace* companies ▪ the *aerospace* industry

aes•thete *also US* **es•thete** /ˈɛsˌθiːt, *Brit* ˈiːsˌθiːt/ *noun, pl* **-thetes** [*count*] *formal* + *sometimes disapproving* : a person who recognizes and values beauty in art, music, etc. ▪ He regards art critics as a bunch of pretentious *aesthetes*.

[1]aes•thet•ic *also US* **es•thet•ic** /ɛsˈθɛtɪk, *Brit* iːsˈθɛtɪk/ *adj* : of or relating to art or beauty ▪ There are practical as well as *aesthetic* reasons for planting trees. ▪ the statue's *aesthetic* [=*artistic*] beauty ▪ making *aesthetic* improvements to the building ▪ *aesthetic* values/ideals
– **aes•thet•i•cal•ly** *also US* **es•thet•i•cal•ly** /ɛsˈθɛtɪkli, *Brit* iːsˈθɛtɪkli/ *adv* ▪ the garden's *aesthetically* pleasing design

[2]aes•thet•ic *also US* **es•thet•ic** *noun, pl* **-ics**
1 [*count*] : a set of ideas or opinions about beauty or art — usually singular ▪ The design of the building reflects a modern/traditional/old-fashioned *aesthetic*.
2 *aesthetics* **a** [*noncount*] : the study of beauty especially in art and literature ▪ *Aesthetics* is an important part of Greek philosophy. **b** [*plural*] : the artistic or beautiful qualities of something ▪ the *aesthetics* of the gemstones
– **aes•thet•i•cism** *also US* **es•thet•i•cism** /ɛsˈθɛtəˌsɪzəm, *Brit* iːsˈθɛtəˌsɪzəm/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the *aestheticism* of the region

afar /əˈfɑə/ *adv*
from afar : from a great distance ▪ Their fans come *from afar* [=from far away] to watch them play. ▪ the Earth as it is seen/viewed *from afar* ▪ He loved/worshipped/admired her *from afar*. [=without telling her]

AFC *abbr, US* American Football Conference ✧ The *AFC* and the NFC make up the NFL.

af•fa•ble /ˈæfəbəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *formal* : friendly and easy to talk to ▪ a lively, *affable* young fellow ▪ an *affable* host
– **af•fa•bil•i•ty** /ˌæfəˈbɪləti/ *noun* [*noncount*] – **af•fa•bly** /ˈæfəbli/ *adv* ▪ We were greeted *affably* by our host.

af•fair /əˈfeə/ *noun, pl* **-fairs**
1 *affairs* [*plural*] : work or activities done for a purpose : commercial, professional, public, or personal business ▪ The group conducts its *affairs* [=*business*] in private. ▪ We were told to arrange/settle our *affairs*. = We were told to put our *affairs* in order. ▪ handling/managing someone else's *affairs* ▪ They seem to be quite pleased with the current/present ***state of affairs*** [=*situation*] ▪ She's the company's director of ***public affairs*** [=the person who manages a company's relationship with the public] ▪ She's an expert in ***foreign affairs*** [=events and activities that involve foreign countries] ▪ ***world/international affairs*** [=events and activities that involve different nations] ▪ After the war, the government focused on its own ***domestic affairs*** ▪ They accused the U.S. of interfering in the ***internal affairs*** of other nations.
2 [*count*] : a matter that concerns or involves someone ▪ This has nothing to do with you. It's not your *affair*. [=*business, concern*] = It's none of your *affair*. [=*business*] ▪ How I choose to live is my *affair*, not yours.
3 [*count*] : a secret sexual relationship between two people : LOVE AFFAIR ▪ adulterous/extramarital *affairs* between married men and single women — often used in the phrase ***have an affair*** ▪ She divorced her husband after she discovered that he was *having an affair*. — often + *with* ▪ She *had an affair with* a coworker.
4 [*count*] **a** : a social event or activity ▪ He wants to make their wedding day an *affair* to remember. [=a special event] ▪ a simple/elaborate *affair* ▪ We were invited to a black-tie *affair* [=a party in which men wear tuxedos and women wear fancy dresses] at the governor's mansion. **b** : an event or series of events that usually involves well-known people ▪ the famous hostage *affair* of the late 1970s ▪ The public has shown little interest in the whole *affair*. — often used with

proper names ▪ the Iran-Contra *affair* [=*scandal*]
5 [*count*] *informal* : something made or produced : an object or thing ▪ The only bridge across the river was a flimsy *affair* of ropes and rotten wood.

af•fect /ə'fɛkt/ *verb* **-fects**; **-fect•ed**; **-fect•ing** [+ *obj*]
1 : to produce an effect on (someone or something): such as **a** : to act on (someone or something) and cause a change ▪ His decisions could *affect* [=*influence*] the lives of millions of people. ▪ The accident will *affect* [=*influence*] the value of the car. ▪ We learned about the way the oceans are *affected* by the moon. ▪ This medication may *affect* your ability to drive a car. [=this medicine may make it dangerous for you to drive a car] ▪ This new evidence will *affect* the outcome of the trial. ▪ The news could adversely *affect* [=could hurt] her chances of becoming the next president. ▪ We kept the change from *affecting* [=*harming*] our friendship. ▪ The incident really *affected* my opinion of him. **b** : to cause strong emotions in (someone) ▪ The criticism *affected* [=*bothered, upset*] her deeply/greatly. ▪ The entire town was *affected* by their deaths. [=everyone in the town felt sad about their deaths] ▪ We were all greatly *affected* by the terrible news. [=we were all very upset by the terrible news] **c** : to cause a change in (a part of the body) ▪ Paralysis *affected* his limbs. = His limbs were *affected* by/with paralysis. [=his limbs were paralyzed] ▪ The disease can *affect* your muscles. ▪ drugs that *affect* the nervous/immune system **d** : to cause illness in (someone) ▪ The condition *affects* about five million adults each year. ▪ a serious disease primarily/mainly *affecting* women over the age of 40 ▪ Only men appear to be *affected* by the disease.

usage Do not confuse the verbs *affect* and *effect*. *Affect* means to act on or change someone or something. ▪ Rain *affected* [=*influenced*] their performance. *Effect* means to cause something to happen. ▪ The new president *effected* [=*made, caused*] many changes to/in the company's policies. Note that the verb *affect* and the noun *effect* are used in contexts that are similar. ▪ The weather *affected* our plans. = The weather had an *effect* on our plans. [=the weather caused us to change our plans]

2 *formal* : to pretend that a false behavior or feeling is natural or genuine ▪ She *affected* indifference [=she pretended that she did not care], though she was deeply hurt. ▪ He *affected* (a look of) surprise. [=he pretended to be surprised] ▪ She *affects* [=*feigns*] a warm friendly manner. ▪ He *affected* [=*faked*] a French accent.

af•fec•ta•tion /ˌæˌfɛk'teɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** : an unnatural form of behavior that is meant to impress others [*count*] His French accent is just an *affectation*. [*noncount*] speaking without *affectation*

af•fect•ed /ə'fɛktəd/ *adj* : not natural or genuine ▪ an *affected* [=*fake, phony*] French accent
– **af•fect•ed•ly** *adv*

af•fect•ing /ə'fɛktɪŋ/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : causing a feeling of sadness or sympathy ▪ He begins his book with an *affecting* description of his difficult childhood. ▪ a powerful, *affecting* [=*moving, touching*] performance
– **af•fect•ing•ly** *adv* ▪ He described her death *affectingly*.

af•fec•tion /ə'fɛkʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions**
1 : a feeling of liking and caring for someone or something [*noncount*] She has/feels deep *affection* for her parents. ▪ Their *affection* for each other is obvious. = Their mutual *affection* is obvious. ▪ He shows great *affection* for his grandchildren. ▪ feelings of love and *affection* ▪ He now looks back on those years with great *affection*. ▪ "darling" and other ***terms of affection*** [=words and names that friends and lovers say to each other to show their affection] [*singular*] She developed a deep *affection* for that country and its people.
2 *affections* [*plural*] : feelings of love : a person's romantic feelings ▪ The two women competed for the *affections* [=*love, heart*] of the same man. ▪ She's been ***the object of his affections*** since they were children. [=he has loved her since they were children]

af•fec•tion•ate /ə'fɛkʃənət/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : feeling or showing love and affection ▪ You were lucky to have such *affectionate* [=*loving*] parents. ▪ an *affectionate* nickname
– **af•fec•tion•ate•ly** *adv* ▪ His family *affectionately* refers to him as "the baby."

af•fi•da•vit /ˌæfə'deɪvət/ *noun, pl* **-vits** [*count*] *law* : a written report which is signed by a person who promises that the information is true ▪ We have a signed *affidavit* stating that the two men were seen entering the building.

[1]af•fil•i•ate /ə'fɪliˌeɪt/ *verb* **-ates**; **-at•ed**; **-at•ing** [+ *obj*] : to closely connect (something or yourself) with or to something (such as a program or organization) as a member or partner ▪ Their group does not ***affiliate itself*** with/to any political party. — often used as *(be) affiliated* ▪ Their group *is* not *affiliated* with/to any political party. ▪ The medical school *is affiliated* with/to several hospitals.
– **affiliated** *adj* ▪ the medical school and its *affiliated* hospitals ▪ the television network's *affiliated* stations

[2]af•fil•i•ate /ə'fɪlijət/ *noun, pl* **-ates** [*count*] : an organization (such as a television station) that is a member of a larger organization (such as a national network) ▪ the network's local *affiliates* ▪ Two of the company's regional *affiliates* lost money in the past year.

af•fil•i•a•tion /əˌfɪli'eɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** : the state of being affiliated to something: such as **a** : the state of being closely associated with or connected to an organization, company, etc. [*count*] The medical school has an *affiliation* to/with several hospitals. [*noncount*] proposing the *affiliation* of the medical school to/with several hospitals **b** [*count*] : the state of belonging to a particular religious or political group — usually plural ▪ They agreed not to discuss their political *affiliations*.

af•fin•i•ty /ə'fɪnəti/ *noun, pl* **-ties** *formal*
1 : a feeling of closeness and understanding that someone has for another person because of their similar qualities, ideas, or interests [*singular*] They had much in common and felt a close *affinity* (for/to/with each other). ▪ There's always been an *affinity* between us. [*noncount*] He never felt any *affinity* with the other kids in his neighborhood.
2 [*singular*] **a** : a liking for or an attraction to something ▪ We share an *affinity* for foreign films. [=we both like foreign films] **b** : a quality that makes people or things suited to each other ▪ Fish and white wine have a natural *affinity* for/to each other. [=fish and white wine taste good together]
3 : the state of being similar or the same [*noncount*] the *affinity* of all human beings with one another = the *affinity* between all human beings [*count*] Are there any *affinities* [=*similarities*] between the two styles of painting?

af•firm /ə'fəm/ *verb* **-firms**; **-firmed**; **-firm•ing** [+ *obj*]
1 *formal* : to say that something is true in a confident way ▪ We cannot *affirm* that this painting is genuine. ▪ The two men *affirm* that they are innocent. = The two men *affirm* their innocence. [=they say they are not guilty] ▪ They neither *affirmed* nor denied their guilt. ***synonyms*** see ASSERT
2 *formal* : to show a strong belief in or dedication to (something, such as an important idea) ▪ laws *affirming* the racial equality of all peoples ▪ They continued to *affirm* their religious beliefs. ▪ *affirm* life — see also LIFE-AFFIRMING
3 *law* : to decide that the judgment of another court is correct ▪ The decision was *affirmed* by a higher court. ▪ The court *affirmed* his conviction. [=the court agreed that he was guilty]
– **af•fir•ma•tion** /ˌæfə'meɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] the *affirmation* of guilt/innocence ▪ When asked if the statement was true, he nodded his head in *affirmation*. [*count*] The ceremony was an *affirmation* of their religious beliefs.

[1]af•fir•ma•tive /ə'fəmətɪv/ *adj, formal* : saying or showing that the answer is "yes" rather than "no" ▪ She gave an *affirmative* answer, not a negative answer.
– **af•fir•ma•tive•ly** *adv* ▪ She answered (the question) *affirmatively*.

[2]affirmative *noun*
in the affirmative *formal* : with a reply that means "yes" ▪ He answered (the question) *in the affirmative*. [=he said "yes"] — compare *in the negative* at [2]NEGATIVE

affirmative action *noun* [*noncount*] *chiefly US* : the practice of improving the educational and job opportunities of members of groups that have not been treated fairly in the past because of their race, sex, etc. — called also *(Brit) positive discrimination*

[1]af•fix /ə'fɪks/ *verb* **-fix•es**; **-fixed**; **-fix•ing** [+ *obj*] *formal* : to attach (something) *to* something else ▪ Please *affix* a stamp *to* [=put a stamp on] this letter. ▪ She *affixed* her signature *to* the document. [=she signed the document]

[2]af•fix /'æˌfɪks/ *noun, pl* **-fix•es** [*count*] *grammar* : a letter or group of letters added to the beginning or end of a word to change its meaning : a prefix or suffix

af•flict /ə'flɪkt/ *verb* **-flicts**; **-flict•ed**; **-flict•ing** [+ *obj*] *formal* : to cause pain or suffering to (someone or something) ▪ The disease *afflicts* an estimated two million people every year. — usually used as *(be) afflicted* ▪ Much of the region *is*

A

afflicted by hunger and poverty. — often + *with* ▪ Most patients/people who *are afflicted with* the disease die within one year. ▪ people *afflicted with* cancer

af•flic•tion /əˈflɪkʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** *formal*
1 [*count*] : something (such as a disease) that causes pain or suffering ▪ She lost her sight and is now learning to live with her/the *affliction*. ▪ He died from a mysterious *affliction*.
2 [*noncount*] : the state of being affected by something that causes suffering ▪ her *affliction* with polio

af•flu•ent /ˈæfluwənt/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : having a large amount of money and owning many expensive things : RICH, WEALTHY ▪ an *affluent* country ▪ an *affluent* suburb/neighborhood/community ▪ *affluent* families ▪ His family was more *affluent* than most.
– **af•flu•ence** /ˈæfluwəns/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ They rose from poverty to *affluence*. [=they were poor and became rich]

af•ford /əˈfoəd/ *verb* **-fords**; **-ford•ed**; **-ford•ing** [+ *obj*]
1 : to be able to pay for (something) ▪ We were too poor to *afford* a doctor. ▪ He'll be able to *afford* a house next year. ▪ Don't spend more than you can *afford*. ▪ They couldn't *afford* new coats for the children. — often followed by *to* + *verb* ▪ They couldn't *afford to buy* new coats for the children. ▪ Don't spend more than you can *afford to* (*spend*).
2 : to be able to do (something) without having problems or being seriously harmed ▪ We can *afford* waiting a while longer. — usually followed by *to* + *verb* ▪ We can *afford to wait* a while longer. — usually used in negative constructions ▪ She's already too thin. She can't *afford to lose* any more weight. = She can ***ill afford*** *to lose* any more weight.
3 *formal* : to supply or provide (something needed or wanted) to someone ▪ All of the rooms *afford* views of the lake. ▪ He was *afforded* the opportunity to work for a judge.
– **af•ford•abil•i•ty** /əˌfordəˈbɪləti/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the *affordability* of health care – **af•ford•able** /əˈfordəbəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ a more *affordable* car ▪ *affordable* housing [=housing that is not overly expensive] ▪ an *affordable* price

af•for•es•ta•tion /æˌforəˈsteɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] *chiefly Brit* : the act or process of planting a forest

af•fray /əˈfreɪ/ *noun, pl* **-frays** [*count*] *chiefly Brit, law, formal* : a noisy fight between two or more people in a public place ▪ a shooting *affray*

[1]af•front /əˈfrʌnt/ *noun, pl* **-fronts** [*count*] *formal* : an action or statement that insults or offends someone ▪ He regarded her rude behavior as a personal *affront*. — often + *to* ▪ Her remarks were an *affront to* all of us. ▪ The test was an *affront to* our intelligence. [=the test was too simple]

[2]affront *verb* **-fronts**; **-front•ed**; **-front•ing** [+ *obj*] *formal* : to do or say something that shows a lack of respect for (someone or someone's feelings) — usually used as *(be) affronted* ▪ He *was affronted* [=*insulted, offended*] by her rude behavior.

af•ghan /ˈæfˌgæn/ *noun, pl* **-ghans** [*count*] *chiefly US* : a blanket made of wool or cotton knitted in patterns

Af•ghan /ˈæfˌgæn/ *noun, pl* **-ghans** [*count*]
1 : a person born, raised, or living in Afghanistan
2 : AFGHAN HOUND
– **Afghan** *or* **Af•ghani** /æfˈgæni, *Brit* æfˈgɑːni/ *adj* ▪ *Afghan* citizens ▪ *Afghani* children

Afghan hound *noun, pl* ~ **hounds** [*count*] : a type of tall thin dog with long soft hair

afi•cio•na•do /əˌfɪʃijəˈnɑːdoʊ/ *noun, pl* **-dos** [*count*] : a person who likes and knows a lot about something ▪ an *aficionado* of poetry ▪ sports *aficionados*

afield /əˈfiːld/ *adv* : away from home : away from here or there — used with *far*, *farther*, or *further* ▪ People came/traveled from as *far afield* as New York to see the show. ▪ He didn't want to go any *farther/further afield*. — often used figuratively ▪ Her question took us *far afield* from our original subject.

afire /əˈfajəɹ/ *adj, not used before a noun* : burning : on fire : AFLAME ▪ The house was *afire*.
– **afire** *adv* ▪ They set the house *afire*.

aflame /əˈfleɪm/ *adj, not used before a noun* : burning : on fire ▪ In a few minutes, the entire town was *aflame*. [=*afire, ablaze*] — often used figuratively ▪ Their hearts were *aflame*. [=filled with love and excitement] ▪ The fields are *aflame* with flowers of every color.
– **aflame** *adv* ▪ The roof was set *aflame* by lightning.

afloat /əˈfloʊt/ *adj, not used before a noun*
1 : floating on water ▪ Our boat remained/stayed *afloat* through the storm. ▪ It's the largest ship *afloat*.
2 : having enough money to continue : able to continue without suffering financial failure ▪ The inheritance kept them *afloat* for years. ▪ trying to keep the business *afloat* ▪ struggling to stay *afloat*

aflut•ter /əˈflʌtəɹ/ *adj, not used before a noun* : nervously excited ▪ Her heart was *aflutter* at the thought of his return.

afoot /əˈfʊt/ *adj, not used before a noun* : developing or happening now : in progress ▪ Plans were *afoot* to begin construction on the bridge. ▪ Something strange was *afoot*. ▪ There's trouble *afoot*.

afore•men•tioned /əˈfoəˈmɛnʃənd/ *adj, always used before a noun, formal* : mentioned before : spoken about or named earlier ▪ The *aforementioned* book is the author's most famous work.

afore•said /əˈfoəˌsɛd/ *adj, always used before a noun, formal* : said or named before : AFOREMENTIONED — often used in legal contexts ▪ Based on the *aforesaid* reasons, the court has come to its decision.

afore•thought /əˈfoəˌθɑːt/ *adj* : thought about or planned beforehand
with malice aforethought see MALICE

afoul of /əˈfaʊləv/ *adv*
fall/run afoul of *chiefly US* : to get into trouble because of (the law, a rule, etc.) ▪ After leaving home he *fell afoul of* the law. [=he got into trouble for breaking the law; he was arrested for committing a crime] ▪ an investor who has *run afoul of* stock market rules

afraid /əˈfreɪd/ *adj, not used before a noun*
1 [*more* ~; *most* ~] : feeling fear: such as **a** : worried that something will cause pain or injury ▪ Don't be *afraid* [=*frightened, scared*]—the dog won't hurt you. — often + *of* ▪ I don't like tall buildings because I'm *afraid of* heights. [=of being high up in the air] ▪ He's *afraid of* snakes. ▪ All the kids at school were *afraid of* him. **b** : nervous about doing something — often + *of* ▪ She's *afraid of* failing/failure. ▪ He wasn't *afraid of* saying what he thought. ▪ Don't be *afraid of* [=don't worry about] what everyone else thinks. — often followed by *to* + *verb* ▪ He wasn't *afraid to say* what he thought. ▪ I wanted to visit her, but I was *afraid to ask*. ▪ Don't be *afraid to take* risks. **c** : nervous or worried that something might happen ▪ She's *afraid* (that) she might fail. ▪ We were all *afraid* (that) she wouldn't live. ▪ I'm *afraid* (that) everyone will laugh at me. ▪ I was *afraid* (that) you would say "no."
2 — used in the phrase ***I'm afraid*** as a polite way of showing that you are sorry about a disappointing, negative, or critical statement ▪ I'm sorry, but *I'm afraid* (that) I won't be able to come to your party. ▪ She tries hard, but *I'm afraid* that her work just isn't very good. ▪ I'm *afraid* that I still don't understand the problem. ▪ This is only the beginning of the battle, *I'm afraid*. ▪ Most of us worked very hard, but she, ***I'm afraid to say*** [=*I'm sorry to say*; *I regret to say*], did no work at all. ▪ "Is it raining?" "***I'm afraid so***." = "*I'm afraid* it is." [=yes, it is] ▪ "Can you come to our party?" "***I'm afraid not***." = "*I'm afraid* I can't." [=no, I can't come]
3 — used with *not* to say that someone is willing to do something; often + *of* ▪ She's *not afraid of* hard work. = She's *not afraid of* working hard. [=she's willing to work hard; she works hard] ▪ You *can't be afraid of* getting dirty in this job. [=you have to be willing to get dirty in this job] — often followed by *to* + *verb* ▪ She's *not afraid to work* hard. ▪ He's *not afraid to admit* his mistakes.
afraid for : feeling fear or worry about (something or someone) ▪ I'm *afraid for* the children. ▪ They were *afraid for* their lives. [=they feared for their lives; they were afraid that they might die] ▪ He's *afraid for* his job. [=he's worried that he might lose his job]

afresh /əˈfrɛʃ/ *adv* : from a new beginning ▪ Let's stop now and start *afresh* [=*again, anew*] in the morning. ▪ The author makes her readers look *afresh* at an old subject. [=she makes them think about an old subject in a new/fresh way]

Af•ri•can /ˈæfrɪkən/ *noun, pl* **-cans** [*count*]
1 : a person born, raised, or living in Africa
2 : a descendant of Africans
– **African** *adj* ▪ *African* history/countries

Af•ri•can–Amer•i•can /ˌæfrɪkənəˈmerɪkən/ *noun, pl* **-cans** [*count*] : an American who has African and especially black African ancestors ✧ Many people prefer the term *African-American* rather than *black* when referring to Americans of African descent.
– **African–American** *adj* ▪ *African-American* scientists ▪ *African-American* culture

African violet *noun, pl* ~ **-lets** [*count*] : a tropical plant from Africa that is grown indoors for its purple, pink, or white flowers — see color picture on page C6

Af•ri•kaans /ˌæfrɪˈkɑːns/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a language based on Dutch that is spoken in South Africa

Af•ri•ka•ner /ˌæfrɪˈkɑːnɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ners** [*count*] : a person born, raised, or living in South Africa whose first language is Afrikaans and whose ancestors were Dutch

Af•ro /ˈæfroʊ/ *noun, pl* **-ros** [*count*] : a hairstyle in which very curly hair is shaped into a smooth round ball — see picture at HAIR ✧ *Afros* were often worn by black people in the 1970s.

Afro- *combining form* : African (and) • *Afro*-American

Af•ro–Amer•i•can /ˌæfrowəˈmerəkən/ *noun, pl* **-cans** [*count*] : AFRICAN-AMERICAN • an *Afro-American*
– **Afro–American** *adj*

[1]aft /ˈæft, *Brit* ˈɑːft/ *adv* : towards or at the back part of a boat, ship, or airplane • We stood on the ship's deck facing *aft*. • The plane's exits are located fore and *aft*. • There is an exit located just ***aft of*** [=behind] the wing. — compare [2]FORE

[2]aft *adj* : located at the back of a boat, ship, or airplane • the ship's fore and *aft* cabins • The fore and *aft* exits can both be used in an emergency. — compare [3]FORE

[1]af•ter /ˈæftɚ, *Brit* ˈɑːftə/ *adv* : following in time : at a later time • Dinner was at six and we arrived shortly *after*. [=*thereafter*] • He returned 20 years *after*. [=*later*] • Don't tell them until *after*. • I expected her then, but she arrived the week *after*. • He ate lunch and left just/right/immediately *after*. • I saw her again the day *after*. [=the following day] • He vowed to love her forever/ever *after*. [=from that time on, forever]

[2]after *prep*

1 a : at a time following (something or someone) : later than (something or someone) • We arrived shortly *after* six o'clock. • He returned *after* 20 years. • before, during, and *after* the war • He left just/right/immediately/soon/shortly *after* nightfall/dark. • Night fell, and soon *after* that [=soon afterward] he left. • He finished the exam *after* me. • I stood up *after* the judge (did). [=the judge stood up before I (did)] • Call me *after* your arrival. • She was going to arrive tomorrow but I'm now expecting her the day *after* tomorrow instead. • She hasn't lived there since (the time) *after* the war. • They earned $30,000 *after* (paying) taxes. • He left *after* an hour. • Let's get going! It's *after* [=*past*] 12 (o'clock). • The job got easier ***after a while***. [=after some time had passed] **b** *US* — used to describe a time following a specified hour • It's 20 (minutes) *after* 12. [=it's 20 past 12; it's 12:20]

2 a : following and because of (something) • *After* all our advice, she's certain to do better. [=she's certain to do better because we have given her our advice] **b** : following and in spite of (something) • Even *after* all our advice, she still did badly! [=she did badly even though we gave her our advice] • How can you say that *after* what happened last night?

3 a : following (something or someone) in order or in a series • It's the highest mountain *after* Mount Everest. • You'll see my house just before the bank and *after* the school. • The number 2 comes before 3 and *after* 1. [=2 comes between 1 and 3] • My name is listed *after* yours. • You go first and I'll go/follow *after* you. • The children marched out ***one after the other*** in single file. ✧ The phrase ***after you*** is used as a polite way of saying that someone should go ahead of you or do something before you do it. • *After you*, Madam! ✧ In British English, you can say ***after you with*** something to ask the person who is using something to let you use it next. • *After you with* the pencil, please. [=I would like to use the pencil when you have finished using it] **b** — used in phrases to describe something that happens many times or for a long period of time • They have suffered misfortune *after* misfortune. [=they have suffered a long series of misfortunes] • Wave *after* [=*upon*] wave was beating against the shore. • She does her job ***day after day*** without complaining. • He's done the same thing ***time after time***.

4 : trying to catch or get (something or someone) • The dog ran *after* the ball. [=the dog ran to get the ball] • The police went/chased *after* the escaped criminal. • The police are *after* him. [=are trying to catch him] • What do you think he's *after* with all his questions? [=what is he trying to achieve by asking his questions?] ✧ If people are ***after you*** to do something, they want you to do it and they tell you to do it repeatedly. • Mom was *after me* to clean my room. [=Mom repeatedly told me to clean my room]

5 : following the actions or departure of (someone) • She called/shouted *after* him as he walked away. [=she called/shouted at/toward him as he walked away] • They made a mess and didn't clean up *after* themselves. [=they didn't clean up the mess they made] • If you make a mess, don't expect me to clean up *after* you.

6 a : with the name of (someone or something) • He was called George *after* his father. • She was named *after* her grandmother. [=she was given the same name as her grandmother] • The game rugby was named *after* Rugby School in England, where it began. **b** : in the manner of (someone or something) • a building patterned *after* [=*on*] a cathedral • (*formal*) a story *after* (the manner of) Hemingway

7 : in a lower or less important position than (something) • They put quality *after* quantity. [=they cared more about quantity than about quality]

8 : about or concerning (someone or something) • I met one of your old friends and she was asking/inquiring *after* you. [=she was asking about you; she was asking how you are] • She was asking *after* your health.

after all **1** : in spite of what was said : even though the opposite was expected • They decided to go *after all*. • It didn't rain *after all*. **2** — used to emphasize something that needs to be considered • It's only Tuesday, *after all*. We have plenty of time. • You should apologize to her. *After all*, she is your best friend.

[3]after *conj* : later than the time that : later than when • He returned *after* 20 years had passed. • The defendant stood up *after* the judge did. [=the judge stood up before the defendant did] • Don't tell them until *after* they've had dinner. • He left just/right/immediately/soon/shortly *after* the show ended. • Call me *after* you arrive. • He finished the exam *after* I did. • It happened not long *after* he graduated from college.

[4]after *adj, always used before a noun, old-fashioned + literary* : later in time • in *after* [=*later*] years

af•ter•birth /ˈæftɚˌbɚθ, *Brit* ˈɑːftəˌbəːθ/ *noun* [*singular*] *medical* : the tissues that come out of the body of a woman after she gives birth to a baby

af•ter•care /ˈæftɚˌkeɚ, *Brit* ˈɑːftəˌkɛə/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the care, treatment, etc., given to people after they leave a place (such as a hospital or prison) — often used before another noun • *aftercare* services

af•ter•ef•fect /ˈæftərɪˌfɛkt, *Brit* ˈɑːftərɪˌfɛkt/ *noun, pl* **-fects** [*count*] : an effect that occurs after time has passed — usually plural • He's suffering the *aftereffects* of his injury.

af•ter•glow /ˈæftɚˌgloʊ, *Brit* ˈɑːftəˌgləʊ/ *noun* [*singular*]

1 : a glowing light remaining in the sky after the sun has set • the *afterglow* of the sunset

2 : a happy feeling that remains after a successful or emotional event • the party's *afterglow* • We basked in the *afterglow* [=enjoyed the happiness and satisfaction] of the victory.

af•ter•life /ˈæftɚˌlaɪf, *Brit* ˈɑːftəˌlaɪf/ *noun* [*singular*] : a life that some people believe exists after death • Does he believe in an *afterlife*? — often used with *the* • She believes she will meet her ancestors in *the afterlife*.

af•ter•math /ˈæftɚˌmæθ, *Brit* ˈɑːftəˌmæθ/ *noun, pl* **-maths** [*count*] : the period of time after a bad and usually destructive event — usually singular • In the *aftermath* of the fire, many people were in need of shelter. • The country is rebuilding its economy in the *aftermath* of the war. • The children struggled through their parents' divorce and its *aftermath*.

af•ter•noon /ˌæftɚˈnuːn, *Brit* ˌɑːftəˈnuːn/ *noun, pl* **-noons** [*count*] : the middle part of the day : the part of the day between noon and evening • morning, *afternoon*, evening, and night • I'll see you again tomorrow *afternoon*. • It was early/late *afternoon* when I left. • She spent the/her *afternoon* at the library. • She came home the next/following *afternoon*. [=during the afternoon of the next day] • I remember the many rainy *afternoons* I spent reading at the library. • She doesn't have class on Friday *afternoons*. • It took us all *afternoon* to get there. • It's going to be a long *afternoon* listening to lectures. • We went for a walk ***this afternoon***. [=during the afternoon today] — often used before another noun • an *afternoon* drive • *afternoon* tea • Our garden gets plenty of *afternoon* sun. [=the sun shines on the garden in the afternoon] — see also GOOD AFTERNOON

af•ter•noons /ˌæftɚˈnuːnz, *Brit* ˌɑːftəˈnuːnz/ *adv, US* : in the afternoon • He works *afternoons* in a convenience store.

af•ters /ˈæftɚz, *Brit* ˈɑːftəz/ *noun* [*noncount*] *Brit, informal* : DESSERT • What's for *afters*? • *Afters* is ice cream tonight.

af•ter–sales /ˈæftɚˌseɪlz, *Brit* ˈɑːftəˌseɪlz/ *adj, always used before a noun, Brit* : provided to customers after a sale has

A

been made ▪ *after-sales* service and maintenance

af•ter–school /ˈæftɚˌskuːl, *Brit* ˈɑːftəˌskuːl/ *adj, always used before a noun* : happening or done after the end of the school day ▪ She started an *after-school* job so she could buy a car. ▪ *after-school* activities/programs

af•ter•shave /ˈæftɚˌʃeɪv, *Brit* ˈɑːftəˌʃeɪv/ *noun, pl* **-shaves** [*count, noncount*] : a pleasant-smelling liquid that some men put on their faces after they have shaved

af•ter•shock /ˈæftɚˌʃɑːk, *Brit* ˈɑːftəˌʃɒk/ *noun, pl* **-shocks** [*count*] : a smaller earthquake that occurs after a larger one ▪ The first *aftershock* came just minutes after the earthquake. — often used figuratively ▪ He still suffers from the *aftershocks* of being laid off.

af•ter•taste /ˈæftɚˌteɪst, *Brit* ˈɑːftəˌteɪst/ *noun* [*singular*] : a taste that remains after something is eaten or drunk ▪ The wine has a smooth/fruity/sweet *aftertaste*. — often used figuratively ▪ The experience left me with a bitter *aftertaste*. [=I felt bitter after the experience]

af•ter•thought /ˈæftɚˌθɑːt, *Brit* ˈɑːftəˌθɔːt/ *noun, pl* **-thoughts** [*count*] : something done or said after other things because it was not thought of earlier ▪ Then I remembered, almost as an *afterthought*, to feed the cat. ▪ The fact was hidden deep in the report, almost as an *afterthought*. ▪ The lounge was added to the office as an *afterthought*.

af•ter•ward /ˈæftɚwɚd, *Brit* ˈɑːftəwəd/ *or* **af•ter•wards** /ˈæftɚwɚdz, *Brit* ˈɑːftəwədz/ *adv* : at a later time : after something has happened ▪ You'll feel better *afterward*. ▪ He found out about it long *afterward*. ▪ *Afterward*, she got a promotion. ✧ In U.S. English, *afterward* is more common than *afterwards*. In British English, *afterwards* is more common.

af•ter•word /ˈæftɚˌwɚd, *Brit* ˈɑːftəˈwɜːd/ *noun, pl* **-words** [*count*] : a final section that comes after the main part of a book ▪ The novel has a foreword by an eminent critic and an *afterword* by the author herself.

again /əˈgɛn/ *adv*

1 : for another time : one more time ▪ Please, come see us *again*. ▪ Spring is beginning *again*. ▪ It was nice to see my friends *again*. ▪ She wants to prove that she can do it *again*. ▪ Things are back to normal *again*. ▪ I will never be so foolish *again*. = ***Never again*** will I be so foolish. ▪ When we heard the news, we all said, "Oh no! ***Not again!***" ▪ She demonstrated ***yet again*** her remarkable artistic talents. ▪ It'll just be the same thing ***all over again***. ▪ I told him ***over and over again*** to be careful. = I told him ***again and again*** to be careful. [=I told him many times to be careful] ▪ She returned to the bookstore *again and again*. [=repeatedly, many times]

2 : to a previous position or place ▪ We flew from Boston to Chicago and back *again*. [=back to Boston] ▪ When he stood up, he got so dizzy that he had to sit down *again*.

3 — used to introduce a thought or possibility that differs from a preceding one ▪ He might go, and *again* he might not. — usually used in the phrase ***then again*** ▪ He might go, and *then again*, he might not. ▪ *Then again*, perhaps they were right.

4 — used to introduce a statement that repeats and stresses something previously said ▪ *Again*, this is a serious problem.

5 — used to ask someone to repeat something because you did not hear or understand it clearly ▪ What was your name *again*?

6 — used in phrases like (*chiefly US*) ***half again as much*** and (*chiefly Brit*) ***half as much again*** to compare two amounts ▪ My ticket costs *half again as much* as your ticket. [=(for example) my ticket costs $15 and your ticket costs $10]

(every) now and again see EVERY

now and again see ¹NOW

once again see ¹ONCE

time and again see ¹TIME

against /əˈgɛnst/ *prep*

1 a : in opposition to (someone or something) ▪ Everyone was *against* them. [=everyone opposed them] ▪ We must continue the struggle for justice and *against* injustice. ▪ She voted *against* the proposal. ▪ You're either for/with me or *against* me! [=you either support me or oppose me] ▪ He spoke *against* appeasing the enemy. ▪ The U.S. fought *against* Germany in World Wars I and II. = The U.S. and Germany fought *against* each other in World Wars I and II. ▪ Some people were for the proposal but others were *against* it. ▪ There's a law *against* doing that. ▪ His parents were angry when they learned he had borrowed the car ***against their wishes***. [=he borrowed the car even though they did not want him to] ▪ ***Against my advice***, she quit her job. [=she quit her job even though I advised her not to] ▪ He was being held ***against his will***. [=he was being kept in a place by force even though he wanted to leave] **b** : in competition with (someone or something) ▪ two runners racing *against* each other ▪ It's the Yankees *against* [=*versus*] the Red Sox tonight.

2 — used to indicate the person or thing that is affected or harmed by something ▪ He denies the charges that have been made *against* him. ▪ The evidence *against* him is very convincing. ▪ The war was a crime *against* humanity. ▪ Someone has been making threats *against* her.

3 : not agreeing with or allowed by (something, such as a law) ▪ You can't do that. It's *against* the law. [=the law does not allow it] ▪ Touching the ball with your hands is *against* the rules. ▪ I won't do it. It's *against* my principles. [=my principles don't allow it; I believe that it is wrong] ▪ They were acting *against* tradition. [=acting in a way that did not agree with tradition]

4 a : not helping or favoring (someone) ▪ Everything was/went *against* them. [=everything that happened was unfavorable to them] ▪ Her appearance is/counts *against* her. [=her appearance does not help her; people form a bad opinion of her because of her appearance] **b** : as a reason for disliking (someone or something) ▪ I ***have nothing against*** him. [=I don't dislike him; I have no reason for disliking him] ▪ We disagree about many things, but I don't ***hold it/that against*** you. [=I don't dislike you because of it/that]

5 — used to say that one thing is being compared with another ▪ Profits are up this year *against* last year. [=profits are higher this year than they were last year] ▪ The yen rose/fell *against* the dollar. ▪ a graph that plots height *against* weight ▪ We will weigh/balance the risk *against* the possible benefit. [=we will compare the risk with the possible benefit]

6 a : as a defense or protection from (something) ▪ He built a crude hut as a shelter *against* [=*from*] the cold. ▪ injections *against* flu **b** : in preparation for (something) ▪ saving *against* [=*for*] an uncertain future

7 — used to describe hitting or touching something or someone ▪ I accidentally knocked/hit my head *against* the shelf. ▪ The waves were beating *against* [=*on*] the shore. ▪ She accidentally brushed *against* him as she walked by. ▪ The ladder was leaning *against* the wall. ▪ She was resting her head *against* the side of the chair.

8 : in a direction opposite to the movement of (something) ▪ They were sailing *against* the wind. ▪ swimming *against* the current/tide

9 : with the background of (something) ▪ The tree looked beautiful when viewed *against* the dark sky. ▪ Her colorful coat stood out *against* the dull colors of the room.

10 : as a charge on (something) ▪ The purchase was charged *against* [=*to*] her account. [=the amount of money needed for the purchase was added to the amount owed in her account]

as against see ²AS

over against see ²OVER

up against see ²UP

agape /əˈgeɪp/ *adj, not used before a noun* : having the mouth open because of wonder, surprise, or shock ▪ He stood there with his mouth *agape*. [=with his mouth gaping] ▪ The crowd stared *agape* at the accident scene.

ag•ate /ˈægət/ *noun, pl* **-ates** [*count*] : a very hard stone used especially in jewelry that has colors arranged in stripes or in patches

¹age /ˈeɪʤ/ *noun, pl* **ag•es**

1 a : the amount of time during which a person or animal has lived [*count*] What is your *age*? [=how old are you?] ▪ The *age* of the student was 20. = The student's *age* was 20. ▪ Some people are reluctant to reveal their *ages*. ▪ She died tragically at a young *age*. ▪ Exercise is good for a man (of) your *age*. ▪ The treatment depends on the sex and *age* of the patient. ▪ He joined the company ***at the age of*** 35. [=when he was 35 years old] ▪ She died at the ***ripe old age*** of 90. ▪ You're too old to behave so foolishly. You should know better ***at your age***. [=a person as old as you are should know better] ▪ You should learn to ***act your age***. [=to act in a way that is appropriate for a person of your age] ▪ She showed remarkable musical talent ***at/from an early age***. [=she showed talent when she was young] ▪ The movie appeals to people ***of all ages***. ▪ The book is popular among men/women ***of a certain age***. [=men/women who are not young anymore] ▪ Her ***age is catching up to her***. = She is starting to ***feel her age***. [=she is starting to feel old] ▪ He left home ***at the tender age*** of 18. [=when he was only 18 years old] ▪ He learned to paint ***in his old age***. [=when he was old] ▪ Our son is small ***for his age***. [=he's smaller than most children are at his age] [*noncount*] Their son needs to spend more time with children his own

age. ▪ a group of children ranging in *age* from 8 to 11 ▪ When you're my *age* [=when you're as old as I am] you'll realize that life isn't always fair. ▪ She became involved with a man twice her *age*. ▪ More people now live to extreme old *age*. [=live to be extremely old] ▪ The program is for people over/under *age* 50. ▪ groups of people classified by race and *age* ▪ The student was 20 years ***of age***. [=was 20 years old] ▪ He joined the company ***at age*** 35. — often used before another noun ▪ The movie appeals to people of all *age* groups. ▪ He was over the *age* limit. [=he was too old] — see also MIDDLE AGE, OLD AGE, SCHOOL AGE **b** : the amount of time during which a thing has existed [*count*] What is the *age* of your car? ▪ The car is in good condition *for its age*. [=considering how old it is] [*noncount*] The magazines were sorted by *age*.
2 : the time of life when a person does something or becomes legally able to do something [*count*] The voting *age* is 18. [=people are allowed to vote when they are 18 years old] ▪ He was past the *age* for military service. [*noncount*] Her parents are approaching retirement *age*. ▪ young people who have not yet reached drinking *age* ▪ students of college *age* = college-*age* students — see also AGE OF CONSENT
3 [*noncount*] **a** : the passage of time : the process of becoming old or older ▪ a tree weakened by *age* ▪ His skills haven't diminished with *age*. ▪ a wine that has improved with *age* ▪ "*Age* cannot wither her, nor custom stale her infinite variety." —Shakespeare, *Antony and Cleopatra* (1607) **b** : the condition of being old ▪ from youth to (old) *age* ▪ The building is showing signs of *age*. ▪ She died of old *age*.
4 [*count*] : a period of history — usually singular ▪ an airplane that became a symbol of the modern *age* ▪ a bygone/past *age* ▪ the great problems of our *age* ▪ It's hard to believe that such behavior is still tolerated ***in this day and age***. [=in current times; now] : a period of time that is associated with a particular thing or person ▪ People expect information instantly in this *age* of the Internet. ▪ the *age* of Columbus ▪ the machine *age* ▪ the *Age* of Discovery — see also BRONZE AGE, DARK AGES, GOLDEN AGE, ICE AGE, IRON AGE, NEW AGE, STONE AGE, *gilded age* at GILD
5 [*count*] *informal* : a long period of time ▪ It's been an *age* since we last saw them. — usually plural ▪ It's been *ages* since we last saw them. = We haven't seen them in/for *ages*. = It was *ages* ago when we last saw them.
come of age : to reach the age when you are considered an adult ▪ He received his full inheritance when he *came of age*. — often used figuratively. ▪ She *came of age* as an artist [=she developed fully as an artist] after she moved to New York. ▪ a political movement that has recently *come of age* [=has become fully formed and effective]
in a coon's age *or* ***in a dog's age*** *US, informal* : in a very long time ▪ We haven't seen them *in a coon's age*.

²age *verb* **ages**; **aged**; **ag·ing** *or chiefly Brit* **age·ing**
1 [*no obj*] : to become old or older ▪ As he *aged* he grew more and more bitter. ▪ You haven't *aged* a day since I saw you last! ▪ an *aging* population ▪ a book that has *aged* well [=a book that is still good or appealing although it is no longer new] ▪ She has *aged* gracefully. [=she has continued to be healthy and young looking as she has gotten older]
2 [+ *obj*] : to cause (someone or something) to become old or to appear to be old ▪ His troubles have *aged* him. ▪ Exposure to the sun has *aged* her skin.
3 *of food or drink* : to be stored for a period of time in order to gain desired qualities [*no obj*] The wine *ages* in oak barrels. [+ *obj*] The wine is *aged* in oak barrels. ▪ an *aged* cheese

-age /ɪʤ/ *noun suffix*
1 : action, process, or result of ▪ cover*age* ▪ break*age* ▪ wast*age*
2 : total amount or collection ▪ mile*age* ▪ acre*age*
3 : house or place of ▪ orphan*age* ▪ broker*age*
4 : state, status, or condition of ▪ bond*age* ▪ block*age*
5 : fee or charge ▪ post*age*

aged *adj*
1 /ˈeɪʤəd/ : very old ▪ an *aged* oak ▪ an *aged* man
2 /ˈeɪʤd/ *not used before a noun* : having reached a specified age ▪ a woman *aged* 40 [=a woman who is 40 years old] ▪ a child *aged* 10 ▪ a group of men *aged* between 20 and 30
the aged : old people ▪ providing help for *the aged* and the sick
– **ag·ed·ness** /ˈeɪʤədnəs/ *noun* [*noncount*]

ageing *chiefly Brit spelling of* AGING

age·ism /ˈeɪˌʤɪzəm/ *noun* [*noncount*] : unfair treatment of old people ▪ He accused his former employer of *ageism* when he lost his job to a younger man.
– **age·ist** /ˈeɪʤɪst/ *adj* ▪ an *ageist* attitude/society

age·less /ˈeɪʤləs/ *adj*
1 : not growing old or showing the effects of age ▪ *ageless* skin ▪ *ageless* beauty ▪ a seemingly *ageless* athlete
2 : lasting forever : ETERNAL, TIMELESS ▪ The movie retold an *ageless* legend. ▪ an *ageless* tradition ▪ *ageless* truths
– **age·less·ly** *adv* ▪ remains *agelessly* beautiful ▪ an *agelessly* romantic gesture – **age·less·ness** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the *agelessness* of her beauty

agen·cy /ˈeɪʤənsi/ *noun, pl* **-cies** [*count*]
1 : a business that provides a particular service ▪ an insurance/travel/employment *agency* ▪ a prominent ad *agency*
2 : a government department that is responsible for a particular activity, area, etc. ▪ federal law enforcement *agencies* ▪ the federal *agency* in charge of printing money ▪ various government *agencies*
through the agency of *formal* : by using the help or services of (something or someone) ▪ The treaty was ratified *through the agency of* a neutral country.

agen·da /əˈʤɛndə/ *noun, pl* **-das** [*count*]
1 : a list of things to be considered or done ▪ The committee set the *agenda* for the next several years of research. ▪ There are several items/issues/things on the *agenda* for tonight's meeting. ▪ What's the first/next item on the *agenda*? ▪ Such an idea has been high on the political *agenda* for some time.
2 : a plan or goal that guides someone's behavior and that is often kept secret ▪ He wants to push/promote his own *agenda* no matter what the others say. ▪ She had no ***hidden agenda***. [=she didn't have a secret plan]

agent /ˈeɪʤənt/ *noun, pl* **agents** [*count*]
1 : a person who does business for another person : a person who acts on behalf of another ▪ They worked with a travel *agent* to plan their vacation. ▪ The actor got a starring role through his (theatrical) *agent*. ▪ a ***literary agent*** [=a person who helps writers to get their works published] — see also FREE AGENT, INSURANCE AGENT, PRESS AGENT, REAL ESTATE AGENT
2 : a person who tries to get secret information about another country, government, etc. : SPY, SECRET AGENT ▪ a government *agent* — see also DOUBLE AGENT, SPECIAL AGENT
3 : a person or thing that causes something to happen ▪ They view themselves as *agents* of social change. [=people who cause social change to happen]
4 : something (such as a chemical) that is used to produce a particular effect or result ▪ The drug is an effective *agent* for the treatment of asthma. ▪ the main flavoring *agent* in the drink ▪ Cornstarch is used as a thickening *agent* in sauces.

agent pro·vo·ca·teur /ˈɑːˌʒɑːnproʊˌvɑːkəˈtɚ/ *noun, pl* **agents pro·vo·ca·teurs** *also* **agent provocateurs** /ˈɑːˌʒɑːnproʊˌvɑːkəˈtɚ/ [*count*] : a person employed to encourage people to break the law so that they can be arrested ▪ The government used *agents provocateurs* to try to undermine the opposition party.

age of consent *noun*
the age of consent : the age at which a person is considered old enough to agree to have sex or to get married

age–old /ˈeɪʤˈoʊld/ *adj, always used before a noun* : very old : having existed for a very long time ▪ an *age-old* [=*ancient*] conflict/debate/problem ▪ *age-old* rituals/ceremonies/traditions

ag·glom·er·a·tion /əˌglɑːməˈreɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** [*count*] *formal* : a large group, collection, or pile of different things ▪ This suburb has become just a vast *agglomeration* of houses, people, and cars.

ag·gran·dize·ment *also Brit* **ag·gran·dise·ment** /əˈgrændəzmənt/ *noun* [*noncount*] *disapproving* : advancement or increase in power or importance ▪ He acted only for his political advantage and personal *aggrandizement*. ▪ self-*aggrandizement*

ag·gra·vate /ˈægrəˌveɪt/ *verb* **-vates**; **-vat·ed**; **-vat·ing** [+ *obj*]
1 : to make (an injury, problem, etc.) more serious or severe ▪ She *aggravated* an old knee injury. ▪ They're afraid that we might *aggravate* an already bad situation. ▪ A headache can be *aggravated* by too much exercise. ▪ The symptoms were *aggravated* by drinking alcohol.
2 *informal* : to make (someone) angry : to annoy or bother (someone) ▪ All of these delays really *aggravate* me. ▪ Our neighbors were *aggravated* by all the noise.
– **aggravating** *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ It was an incredibly slow and *aggravating* process. ▪ He has some very *aggravating* [=*annoying, irritating*] habits. – **ag·gra·vat·ing·ly** *adv*

A

▪ an *aggravatingly* slow process

aggravated *adj*
1 [*more ~; most ~*] : annoyed or bothered ▪ I sometimes get very *aggravated* when she does that.
2 *always used before a noun, law* : made more serious by the use of violence or the threat of violence ▪ He was convicted of *aggravated* assault.

ag·gra·va·tion /ˌægrəˈveɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions**
1 [*noncount*] : the act or result of making a condition, injury, etc., worse : the act or result of aggravating something ▪ trying to avoid the *aggravation* of an existing back problem
2 *informal* : something that annoys or bothers someone : something that aggravates someone [*noncount*] The weather was a source of *aggravation* for us. [=we were annoyed by the weather] ▪ I don't need all this *aggravation*. ▪ This car has caused me nothing but *aggravation*. ▪ Many talented people now feel that a career in politics isn't worth all the *aggravation*. [*count*] I don't need all these *aggravations*.

[1]ag·gre·gate /ˈægrɪˌgeɪt/ *verb* **-gates**; **-gat·ed**; **-gat·ing** *formal*
1 : to join or combine into a single group [+ *obj*] The Web site *aggregates* content from many other sites. [*no obj*] These insects tend to *aggregate* [=*congregate*] in dark, moist places.
2 [*linking verb*] : to equal a specified number or amount ▪ All together, they had profits *aggregating* [=*totaling*] more than 10 million dollars.
– **ag·gre·ga·tion** /ˌægrɪˈgeɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** [*count, noncount*]

[2]ag·gre·gate /ˈægrɪgət/ *noun, pl* **-gates** [*count*] *formal* : a total amount — usually singular ▪ We spent an *aggregate* of 30 million dollars in advertising during the last three years. ▪ They won the two games by an *aggregate of* 40 points.
in the aggregate *also* ***in aggregate*** *formal* : thought of as a whole : all together ▪ Dividends for the year amounted *in the aggregate* to 25 million dollars. ▪ The experience only becomes important when considered *in the aggregate*.
on aggregate *Brit, sports* : with the scores of a series of matches added together ▪ Our team won the same number of matches, but their team scored more goals so they won *on aggregate*.

[3]ag·gre·gate /ˈægrɪgət/ *adj, always used before a noun* : formed by adding together two or more amounts : TOTAL ▪ The university receives more than half its *aggregate* income from government sources. ▪ The team with the highest *aggregate* score wins.

ag·gres·sion /əˈgrɛʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*]
1 : angry or violent behavior or feelings ▪ He has a lot of pent-up *aggression*. ▪ a display of *aggression* ▪ behavior that is likely to provoke *aggression* ▪ dangerous dogs showing *aggression* toward people
2 : hostile action against another country, government, etc. ▪ military *aggression* ▪ The government says that it will view any attempt to fly over its territory as an ***act of aggression***.

ag·gres·sive /əˈgrɛsɪv/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*]
1 : ready and willing to fight, argue, etc. : feeling or showing aggression ▪ He started to get *aggressive* and began to shout. ▪ an *aggressive* dog ▪ *aggressive* behavior
2 : using forceful methods to succeed or to do something ▪ an overly *aggressive* salesman ▪ an *aggressive* lawyer whose tactics have made people angry ▪ The team plays a very *aggressive* style of defense. ▪ The company took *aggressive* steps to prevent illegal use of their equipment. ▪ The publisher has been very *aggressive* in promoting the book. ▪ The city began an *aggressive* campaign to encourage recycling.
3 *medical* **a** : very severe ▪ an *aggressive* form of cancer **b** : very strong or intense ▪ *aggressive* chemotherapy
– **ag·gres·sive·ly** *adv* ▪ The company is *aggressively* promoting their products. – **ag·gres·sive·ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

ag·gres·sor /əˈgrɛsɚ/ *noun, pl* **-sors** [*count*] : a person or country that attacks another : a person or country that starts a fight or war ▪ Each country accused the other of being the *aggressor*.

ag·grieved /əˈgriːvd/ *adj*
1 [*more ~; most ~*] : feeling anger because of unfair treatment ▪ He felt *aggrieved* by their refusal to meet with him. ▪ an *aggrieved* victim
2 *law* : having suffered from unfair treatment ▪ The *aggrieved* party may cancel the contract.

aggro /ˈægroʊ/ *noun* [*noncount*] *Brit, informal*
1 : something that annoys or bothers someone : AGGRAVATION ▪ He's gotten nothing but *aggro* from his parents lately. ▪ They decided it wasn't worth the *aggro*.
2 : angry and violent behavior : AGGRESSION ▪ The police were there to prevent any *aggro*.

aghast /əˈgæst, *Brit* əˈgɑːst/ *adj, not used before a noun* [*more ~; most ~*] : shocked and upset ▪ The news left her *aghast*. ▪ Critics were *aghast* to see how awful the play was. — often + *at* ▪ She was *aghast at* the news. ▪ Critics were *aghast at* how awful the play was.

ag·ile /ˈædʒəl/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*]
1 : able to move quickly and easily ▪ She is the most *agile* [=*nimble*] athlete on the team. ▪ Leopards are very fast and *agile*. ▪ a car with *agile* handling [=a car that moves quickly and smoothly when the steering wheel is turned]
2 : quick, smart, and clever ▪ an *agile* mind ▪ an *agile* writer ▪ an *agile* thinker
– **ag·ile·ly** *adv* ▪ The cat jumped *agilely* out of the way. – **agil·i·ty** /əˈdʒɪlətiː/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the *agility* of a champion gymnast ▪ He has the *agility* of a mountain goat. [=he is very agile] ▪ mental *agility*

[1]aging *or chiefly Brit* **ageing** *adj* : becoming old : no longer young or new ▪ his *aging* parents ▪ an *aging* building

[2]aging *or chiefly Brit* **ageing** *noun* [*noncount*] : the act or process of becoming old or older ▪ premature *aging* of the skin ▪ a wine improved by *aging*

ag·i·tate /ˈædʒəˌteɪt/ *verb* **-tates**; **-tat·ed**; **-tat·ing**
1 [+ *obj*] : to disturb, excite, or anger (someone) ▪ If I talk about the problem with him it just *agitates* him even more.
2 [*no obj*] : to try to get people to support or oppose something ▪ Some members of the union have been *agitating* for a strike. ▪ *agitate* for equal rights ▪ A few local residents have been *agitating* against a military presence.
3 [+ *obj*] *technical* : to move or stir up (a liquid) ▪ water *agitated* by wind ▪ The mixture is heated and then *agitated*.
– **agitated** *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] ▪ I've never seen her so *agitated* before. ▪ The dog became very *agitated* during the storm. – **ag·i·tat·ed·ly** *adv* ▪ pacing back and forth *agitatedly* – **ag·i·ta·tion** /ˌædʒəˈteɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ He spoke with increasing *agitation* about the situation. ▪ *agitation* for civil rights ▪ continuous *agitation* of the mixture

ag·i·ta·tor /ˈædʒəˌteɪtɚ/ *noun, pl* **-tors** [*count*]
1 *usually disapproving* : a person who tries to get people angry or upset so that they will support an effort to change a government, company, etc. ▪ The police arrested several antigovernment *agitators*.
2 : a device for stirring or shaking something in a machine (such as a washing machine)

agleam /əˈgliːm/ *adj, not used before a noun* : bright or shining with reflected light ▪ She spoke of all the possibilities, her eyes *agleam*. [=*gleaming*]

aglit·ter /əˈglɪtɚ/ *adj, not used before a noun* : sparkling brightly with reflected light ▪ The tree was all *aglitter* [=*glittering*] with Christmas decorations.

aglow /əˈgloʊ/ *adj, not used before a noun*
1 : glowing with light or color ▪ The lights of the city were *aglow* in the distance. ▪ The room was *aglow* with candlelight.
2 : very excited or happy : feeling or showing excitement and happiness ▪ The children were *aglow* with excitement. ▪ The town was *aglow* with pride.

AGM /ˌeɪˌdʒiːˈɛm/ *noun, pl* **AGMs** [*count*] *Brit* : a meeting that an organization has once every year to discuss business, elect officials, etc. ▪ The new Board was elected at our last *AGM*. [=(*US*) *annual meeting*] ✧ *AGM* is an abbreviation for "Annual General Meeting."

ag·nos·tic /ægˈnɑːstɪk/ *noun, pl* **-tics** [*count*]
1 : a person who does not have a definite belief about whether God exists or not — compare ATHEIST
2 : a person who does not believe or is unsure of something ▪ She considered herself an *agnostic* on the truth of the theory. [=she was not sure if the theory was true or not] ▪ a political *agnostic* [=a person who lacks strong political beliefs]
– **agnostic** *adj* ▪ politically *agnostic* – **ag·nos·ti·cism** /ægˈnɑːstəˌsɪzəm/ *noun* [*noncount*]

ago /əˈgoʊ/ *adv* : in the past : before the present time : before now ▪ "How long *ago* did she arrive?" "A few hours *ago*." ▪ That culture flourished here over 10,000 years *ago*. ▪ We met three months *ago* and we'll meet again three months from now. ▪ He long *ago* learned to be patient. ▪ I saw an interesting ad ***not long ago*** [=*recently*] for a new car. ▪ All the good tickets were sold a long time *ago*. = All the good tickets were sold (quite) ***some time ago***.

agog /əˈgɑːg/ *adj, not used before a noun* : full of interest or excitement because of something ▪ The news has chemists

agog. ▪ Her supporters were *agog* at the idea. ▪ The town is *agog* over the plan.

ag•o•nize *also Brit* **ag•o•nise** /'ægəˌnaɪz/ *verb* **-niz•es**; **-nized**; **-niz•ing** [*no obj*] : to think or worry very much about something — usually + *about* or *over* ▪ She *agonized about* what she was doing. ▪ The coach *agonizes* for days *over* the choices he has to make. ▪ The architect *agonized over* every detail of the planning.

agonized *also Brit* **agonised** *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : showing mental or physical pain or agony ▪ an *agonized* cry of despair

agonizing *also Brit* **agonising** *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : very mentally or physically painful ▪ a long and *agonizing* battle with cancer ▪ She made the *agonizing* decision to cancel the trip. ▪ The *agonizing* wait was finally over. ▪ He was in *agonizing* pain.
– **ag•o•niz•ing•ly** *also Brit* **ag•o•nis•ing•ly** *adv* ▪ an *agonizingly* painful condition ▪ They moved at an *agonizingly* slow pace.

ag•o•ny /'ægəni/ *noun, pl* **-nies** : extreme mental or physical pain [*noncount*] She was in terrible *agony* after breaking her leg. ▪ He died in *agony*. ▪ The medicine relieves the *agony* of muscle cramps very quickly. ▪ the *agony* of defeat ▪ It was *agony* to watch him suffer like that. [*count*] He suffered no ***agonies of guilt/remorse/regret*** over his decision. [=he did not feel guilty about his decision]

agony aunt *noun, pl* ~ **aunts** [*count*] *Brit* : a person who writes an agony column ▪ Hundreds of people write in to the paper's *agony aunt* [=(*US*) *advice columnist*] every week.

agony column *noun, pl* ~ **-umns** [*count*] *Brit* : ADVICE COLUMN

ag•o•ra•pho•bia /ˌægərə'foʊbijə/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a fear of being in open or public places ▪ a patient suffering from *agoraphobia* — compare CLAUSTROPHOBIA
– **ag•o•ra•pho•bic** /ˌægərə'foʊbɪk/ *adj* ▪ an *agoraphobic* patient – **agoraphobic** *noun, pl* **-bics** [*count*] ▪ a therapist who works with *agoraphobics*

agrar•i•an /ə'grerijən/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : of or relating to farms and farming ▪ a town founded in 1811 as an *agrarian* community ▪ an *agrarian* economy ▪ an *agrarian* society

agree /ə'gri:/ *verb* **agrees**; **agreed**; **agree•ing**
1 : to have the same opinion [*no obj*] We *agreed* about some things, but we disagreed about others. ▪ They *agreed* among themselves. ▪ She says that a change is needed, and I *agree* completely. ▪ I couldn't *agree* more. ▪ We can all *agree* on/about one thing: the current law needs to be changed. ▪ Some critics have called the movie a masterpiece, but not everyone *agrees*. ▪ The house is too big for one person, don't you *agree*? — often + *with* ▪ I *agree with* you. = I *agree with* what you say. [+ *obj*] I *agree* (that) the house is too big. ▪ We all *agree* (that) the law needs to be changed. ✧ When people ***are agreed***, they have the same opinion. ▪ We *are* all *agreed* that the law needs to be changed. [=we all agree that the law needs to be changed] ▪ Researchers *are* now *agreed* that the cause of the disease is genetic. ▪ "So we'll have to revise the schedule. *Agreed*?" [=are we agreed?] "*Agreed*." [=yes, we are agreed] ✧ When a person or thing ***is agreed to be*** something specified, people regard that person or thing as something specified. ▪ The movie *is* generally *agreed to be* a failure. [=most people think that the movie is a failure] ▪ She *is* widely *agreed to be* one of our best writers. ▪ Her first book *is* almost universally *agreed to be* her best.
2 : to say that you will do, accept, or allow something that is suggested or requested by another person [*no obj*] The reporter asked her for an interview, and she reluctantly *agreed*. [=she reluctantly said yes] — often + *to* ▪ He *agreed to* [=*consented to*] their proposal/plan. ▪ *agree to* a compromise ▪ She *agreed to* an interview. = She *agreed to* being interviewed. [+ *obj*] She asked if she could go with him, and he *agreed* that she could. — often followed by *to* + *verb* ▪ He *agreed to accept* their proposal. ▪ She reluctantly *agreed to be* interviewed. ▪ He readily *agreed to do* what they wanted him to do. ▪ They *agreed not to oppose* her nomination.
3 *of two or more people or groups* : to decide to accept something after discussing what should or might be done [*no obj*] — usually + *on* or *upon* ▪ The jurors were unable to *agree on* a verdict. [=to reach a verdict] ▪ *agree on* a plan ▪ They *agreed on* a fair division of the profits. ▪ The means of ending the dispute were finally *agreed upon*. ▪ They should accept the terms that were originally *agreed upon*. ▪ The price was *agreed upon* in advance. [+ *obj*] (*Brit*) ▪ The jurors were unable to *agree* a verdict. ▪ The means of ending the dispute were finally *agreed*. ✧ The forms ***agreed***, ***agreed-upon***, and (less commonly) ***agreed-on*** are used as adjectives in both U.S. and British English. ▪ She paid him the *agreed* price. ▪ They met at the *agreed-upon* time.
4 [*no obj*] : to be alike : to resemble or match each other ▪ The accounts of the accident did not *agree* (with each other). ▪ The copies *agree* exactly with the originals. ▪ These results *agree* with earlier studies.
5 [*no obj*] *grammar* : to be alike in gender, number, case, or person ▪ A verb should *agree* with its subject. ▪ A verb and pronoun should *agree* in number.
6 [*no obj*] : to be suitable for or pleasing to someone — + *with* ▪ The climate *agrees with* you. [=the climate suits you] ▪ Spicy food doesn't *agree with* me. [=spicy food makes me feel unwell]
agree to disagree (*chiefly US*) *or chiefly Brit* ***agree to differ*** : to agree not to argue anymore about a difference of opinion ▪ He likes golf and his wife likes tennis, so when it comes to sports, they have *agreed to disagree*.
agree with [*phrasal verb*] ***agree with (something)*** : to regard (something) with approval ▪ Do you *agree with* capital punishment? — see also AGREE 1, 6 (above)

agree•able /ə'gri:jəbəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]
1 *somewhat formal* + *old-fashioned* : pleasing to the mind or senses : PLEASANT ▪ an *agreeable* taste ▪ He's a very *agreeable* young man. ▪ Traffic is one of the less *agreeable* aspects of city life. ▪ They spent an *agreeable* evening together. — opposite DISAGREEABLE
2 : ready or willing to agree : willing to do or allow something ▪ I suggested that we leave early, and she seemed *agreeable*. — usually + *to* ▪ She seemed *agreeable to* (the idea of) leaving early.
3 : able to be accepted : ACCEPTABLE — + *to* ▪ Is the schedule *agreeable to* you? [=do you agree to the schedule?]
– **agree•able•ness** *noun* [*noncount*] – **agree•ably** /ə'gri:jəbli/ *adv* ▪ an *agreeably* sweet taste ▪ They spent the evening together very *agreeably*.

agree•ment /ə'gri:mənt/ *noun, pl* **-ments**
1 [*noncount*] **a** : the act of agreeing ▪ Any changes to the plan require the *agreement* of everyone involved. ▪ We were surprised by his *agreement* to participate. [=we were surprised that he agreed to participate] ▪ She nodded her head ***in agreement***. [=to show that she agreed] **b** : a situation in which people share the same opinion : a situation in which people agree ▪ There is wide/widespread/universal *agreement* on this issue. ▪ Everyone seems to be ***in agreement*** [=seems to agree] about/on the need for reform, but there is much disagreement about how to achieve it. ▪ They have been unable to ***reach agreement*** about how to achieve reform.
2 [*count*] **a** : an arrangement, contract, etc., by which people agree about what is to be done ▪ I thought we had an *agreement*. ▪ a formal/contractual *agreement* ▪ Their *agreement* expires next year. ▪ He has to return the property under the terms of an *agreement* he has with the original owner. ▪ a peace *agreement* ▪ a trade *agreement* ▪ They have ***come to an agreement***. = They have ***reached an agreement***. **b** : a written record of such an agreement ▪ He signed an *agreement* to buy the property. — see also GENTLEMAN'S AGREEMENT
3 [*noncount*] *grammar* : the fact or state of being alike in gender, number, case, or person : the fact or state of agreeing grammatically ▪ The subject and the verb need to be ***in agreement*** (with each other).

ag•ri•busi•ness /'ægrəˌbɪznəs/ *noun, pl* **-ness•es**
1 [*noncount*] : the business or industry of farming or agriculture : farming thought of as a large business ▪ a giant *agribusiness* corporation
2 [*count*] : a company engaged in agribusiness ▪ Several large *agribusinesses* own most of the farms around here.

ag•ri•cul•tur•al /ˌægrɪ'kʌlʧərəl/ *adj*
1 : of, relating to, or used in farming or agriculture ▪ *agricultural* machinery ▪ *agricultural* methods ▪ the state's main *agricultural* product ▪ rich *agricultural* land
2 : engaged in or concerned with farming or agriculture ▪ an *agricultural* society ▪ an important *agricultural* center ▪ a small *agricultural* community
– **ag•ri•cul•tur•al•ly** *adv*

ag•ri•cul•ture /'ægrɪˌkʌlʧɚ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the science or occupation of farming ▪ They cleared the land to use it for *agriculture*. — compare HORTICULTURE
– **ag•ri•cul•tur•ist** /ˌægrɪ'kʌlʧərəlɪst/ *or* **ag•ri•cul•tur•al•ist** /ˌægrɪ'kʌlʧərəlɪst/ *noun, pl* **-ists** [*count*] ▪ skilled *agriculturists*

A

agron•o•my /əˈgrɑːnəmi/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a science that deals with the methods used by farmers to raise crops and care for the soil
– **agron•o•mist** /əˈgrɑnəmɪst/ *noun, pl* **-mists** [*count*]

aground /əˈgraʊnd/ *adv* : on or onto the ground • The ship ran/went *aground* during the storm last night. [=the bottom of the ship struck and became stuck on the ground under the water] • The boat ran *aground* on a reef.

ah /ˈɑː/ *interj* — used to express pleasure, relief, etc. • *Ah*, I remember the good old days. • *Ah*, that feels good. • *Ah*, so that's where the idea came from! • *Ah*, yes, now I remember.

aha /ɑˈhɑː/ *interj* — used when something is suddenly seen, found, or understood • *Aha*! I knew it was you! • *Aha*! So that's how it's supposed to work.

ahead /əˈhɛd/ *adv*
1 a : in or toward the front • The road stretched *ahead* for many miles. • Someone was standing in the road (up) *ahead*. • We knew the way *ahead* [=*forward*] was difficult, but we persevered. • "Full speed *ahead*!" shouted the captain. • He was looking ***straight ahead*** [=directly forward] **b** : to or toward the place where someone is going • I can't leave yet. You go on *ahead*. I'll catch up later. • She was delayed at the airport so she sent her bags *ahead* to the hotel.
2 : in, into, or for the future • We need to think/plan *ahead*. • The past year has been successful and, looking *ahead*, we expect to do even better in the coming months. • We have some hard work *ahead*. • He expects to be very busy in the weeks *ahead*. • We don't know what lies *ahead*. • We'll pause now for a commercial. The weather report is just *ahead*. [=the weather report will be broadcast after the commercial]
3 : in the lead in a race or competition • They were trailing by 5 points earlier in the game, but now they're *ahead* [=*winning*] by 7. • They scored three runs to go *ahead* by two. • a politician who is *ahead* in the polls • We're winning now, but we have to work hard to stay/keep *ahead*.
4 : in or toward a better position • I came out $20 *ahead* on the deal. [=I made a profit of $20 on the deal] • He's very ambitious. He'll do anything to ***get ahead*** [=to become successful]
5 : at an earlier time • She prepared most of the food *ahead*. [=*ahead of time*] • make payments *ahead*

ahead of *prep*
1 : in, at, or to a place before (someone or something) • She got *ahead of* me. • Someone was standing in the road just a few yards (up) *ahead of* us. • They went on *ahead of* us and by now are several miles *ahead of* us.
2 : in the future for (someone or something) • We have some hard work *ahead of* us.
3 : having a lead or advantage over (a competitor) • The polls show that he is *ahead of* the other candidates. • The company is working hard to stay one step *ahead of* the competition. • They were trailing us by 5 points earlier in the game, but now they're *ahead of* us by 7.
4 a : better than (something) • The company's earnings are (way/far) *ahead of* forecasts. [=are (much) better than they were expected to be] **b** : in a more advanced position than (someone or something) • He was a year *ahead of* me in school. [=he finished school a year before I did] ✧ If you are ***ahead of your time*** or if your ideas, creations, etc., are ***ahead of their time***, you are too advanced or modern to be understood or appreciated during the time when you live or work. • As a poet, he was *ahead of his time*. His poems, now regarded as classics, were unpopular when he wrote them.
5 : at an earlier time than (someone or something) : sooner than (someone or something) • They arrived at the party a few minutes *ahead of* [=*before*] us. • They're hoping to work out an agreement well *ahead of* [=*before*] the deadline. • She prepared most of the food ***ahead of time*** [=*beforehand*] • It looks like we can finish the project ***ahead of schedule*** [=earlier than planned]

ahem /əˈhɛm/ *interj* — used in writing to represent a sound that is like a quiet cough that people make especially to attract attention or to express disapproval or embarrassment

ahoy /əˈhoɪ/ *interj* — used by a sailor who is calling out to a passing ship or boat • Ship *ahoy*! • *Ahoy* there, mate!

AI *abbr* artificial intelligence

[1]aid /ˈeɪd/ *verb* **aids**; **aid•ed**; **aid•ing** : to provide what is useful or necessary : HELP [+ *obj*] They gave money in order to *aid* the cause. • She *aided* them in their efforts. • He jumped into the water to *aid* the drowning child. • His position was *aided* [=*strengthened*] by the fact that he was right. • a home run that was *aided* by the wind • *aiding* the poor • She *aided* the government in the attempt to fight illiteracy. • She is charged with ***aiding and abetting*** [=helping and encouraging] the thief in his getaway. [*no obj*] — usually + *in* • She *aided in* the attempt to fight illiteracy. • His research *aided in* the discovery of a new treatment for cancer. • The research *aided in* establishing new theories.

[2]aid *noun, pl* **aids**
1 [*noncount*] : the act of helping someone : help or assistance given to someone • The teacher enlisted/sought the *aid* of several students for the project. [=the teacher asked several students to help with the project] • The project was completed ***with the aid of*** several students. • The work was done *with the aid of* a computer. • I can no longer read ***without the aid of*** glasses. [=without using glasses] • When the climbers became trapped by bad weather, a rescue party was sent ***to their aid*** [=was sent to help/rescue them]
2 [*noncount*] **a** : something (such as money, food, or equipment) that is given by a government or an organization to help the people in a country or area where many people are suffering because of poverty, disease, etc. • The government has given millions of dollars in economic/foreign *aid* to these nations. • humanitarian *aid* — often used before another noun • international *aid* organizations • an *aid* worker [=a person who goes to a foreign country to help the people there] **b** : money that is given to a student to help pay for the cost of attending a school • She applied for financial/student *aid* in order to go to college.
3 [*count*] **a** : something that provides help or assistance • The diagram is provided as an *aid* to understanding. • The computer is an *aid* to keeping costs down. **b** : a device, object, etc., that makes something easier to do • He teaches art with visual *aids*. • *aids* to navigation = navigational *aids* • instructional/learning *aids* • a pill used as an *aid* for sleeping = a ***sleeping aid*** — see also FIRST AID, HEARING AID
4 [*count*] *chiefly US* : a person whose job is to assist someone : AIDE • She works as a teacher's *aid*.
in aid of *chiefly Brit* : in order to help (something or someone) • The event is being held *in aid of* charity. • *in aid of* refugees ✧ The informal British expression ***What's (all) this/that in aid of?*** is used to ask about the purpose of something. • "*What's all this rushing about in aid of*, then?" [=what's all this rushing about for?] "We're trying to get things ready for the boss's visit."

aide /ˈeɪd/ *noun, pl* **aides** [*count*] : a person whose job is to assist someone : ASSISTANT • a nurse's *aide* • a teacher's *aide* • The senate office hired several congressional *aides*. • a presidential *aide*

aide–de–camp /ˌeɪddɪˈkæmp, *Brit* ˌeɪddɪˈkɑːmp/ *noun, pl* **aides–de–camp** /ˌeɪdzdɪˈkæmp, *Brit* ˌeɪdzdɪˈkɑːmp/ [*count*] : a military officer who assists another high-ranking officer

AIDS /ˈeɪdz/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a serious disease of the immune system that is caused by infection with a virus ✧ *AIDS* is an abbreviation for *acquired immune deficiency syndrome*.

ail /ˈeɪl/ *verb* **ails**; **ailed**; **ail•ing**
1 [+ *obj*] : to cause pain or trouble for (someone) : TROUBLE • This medicine is good for what/whatever *ails* you. • His back was *ailing* him. — often used figuratively • a discussion about what *ails* public education these days
2 [*no obj*] : to suffer bad health • She has been *ailing* for years. — often used figuratively • The company is *ailing* financially.
– **ailing** *adj* • He has an *ailing* back/elbow/heart. • her *ailing* husband • in *ailing* health • the *ailing* economy • an *ailing* company

ai•le•ron /ˈeɪləˌrɑːn/ *noun, pl* **-rons** [*count*] *technical* : a part of an airplane wing that can be moved up or down to cause the airplane to turn — see picture at AIRPLANE

ail•ment /ˈeɪlmənt/ *noun, pl* **-ments** [*count*] : a sickness or illness • She suffered from a chronic back *ailment*. • a kidney/liver/lung/skin *ailment* • The doctor treated him for a variety of *ailments*.

[1]aim /ˈeɪm/ *verb* **aims**; **aimed**; **aim•ing**
1 a : to point (a weapon) at a target [+ *obj*] He *aimed* the gun carefully before shooting. • Don't *aim* that pistol at me! [*no obj*] He *aimed* carefully before shooting. • Ready, *aim*, fire! **b** : to point (a device) at something [+ *obj*] *aim* a camera • Try to *aim* the antenna in the right direction. • She *aimed* the telescope at a point in the eastern sky. [*no obj*] She *aimed* at a point in the eastern sky. **c** [+ *obj*] : to direct (something, such as a missile, a ball, a punch, or a kick) at a target • He *aimed* the stone at the dog but missed. • The

throw from the shortstop was poorly/badly *aimed*. ▪ well-*aimed* and badly *aimed* kicks/punches

2 : to have a specified goal or purpose [*no obj*] If you want to be successful, you have to ***aim high***. [=you have to be ambitious] — often + *at* ▪ The movie *aims at* comedy [=the movie is intended to be a comedy], but it really isn't very funny. ▪ a political movement that *aims at* promoting world peace — often + *for* ▪ The movie *aims for* comedy. ▪ *aim for* a goal ▪ If you're trying to lose weight, you should give yourself a goal/target to *aim for*. [+ *obj*] — followed by *to* + *verb* ▪ a political movement that *aims to promote* world peace ▪ They *aim* [=*intend*] *to reform* the government. ▪ We *aim* [=*plan*] *to arrive* there at around noon. ▪ We *aim to please*.

3 [+ *obj*] : to direct (something) *at* a particular goal, group of people, etc. ▪ He *aimed* his criticism primarily *at* parents. — usually used as *(be) aimed* ▪ His criticism *was aimed* primarily *at* parents. ▪ The television program *is aimed* directly/primarily *at* children. [=is intended mainly for children] ▪ The new system *is aimed at* reducing costs. [=the purpose of the new system is to reduce costs] ▪ a political movement that *is aimed at* promoting world peace

²aim *noun, pl* **aims**

1 [*count*] : a goal or purpose ▪ a political movement whose *aim* is to promote world peace ▪ Our ultimate *aim* is to create something of lasting value. ▪ The book has two basic *aims*. ▪ She was unable to achieve her *aims*. ▪ I started this business ***with the aim of*** making a profit.

2 [*noncount*] : the ability to hit a target ▪ His *aim* was good. ▪ He fired at the target but his *aim* was off/bad and he missed.

take aim **1** : to point a weapon at a target ▪ He *took* careful *aim* at the target. [=he aimed carefully at the target] **2** *US* : to have a specified goal or intention ▪ The runner ***took aim at*** setting a record. [=the runner's goal was to set a record] **3** : to have something as the object of an action or effort ▪ Investigators are ***taking aim at*** [=*targeting*] health-care fraud. [=investigators are intending to punish/stop health-care fraud]

aim•less /ˈeɪmləs/ *adj* : not having a goal or purpose ▪ an *aimless* young person ▪ an *aimless* conversation

– aim•less•ly *adv* ▪ She liked to wander *aimlessly* around the park. ▪ driving around *aimlessly* **– aim•less•ness** *noun* [*noncount*] He lived a life of *aimlessness*. [*singular*] There was an *aimlessness* to his life.

ain't /ˈeɪnt/

1 : am not ▪ I *ain't* worried. : are not ▪ They *ain't* interested. : is not ▪ It's a free country, *ain't* it?

2 : have not ▪ Those people *ain't* got a clue. : has not ▪ Her husband left and she *ain't* never been the same.

> ***usage*** *Ain't* is usually regarded as an error, but it is common in the very informal speech of some people and it is also used in informal and humorous phrases. ▪ That joke just *ain't* funny. ▪ Say it *ain't* so! ▪ You *ain't* seen nothing yet! ▪ Two out of three *ain't* bad. ▪ If it *ain't* broke don't fix it! ▪ Things *ain't* what they used to be. ▪ *Ain't* that the truth?

¹air /ˈeɚ/ *noun, pl* **airs**

1 [*noncount*] **a** : the invisible mixture of gases (such as nitrogen and oxygen) that surrounds the Earth and that people and animals breathe ▪ These laws are meant to produce cleaner *air*. ▪ A delicious smell filled the *air*. ▪ I like to dine outdoors in the open *air*. ▪ cool/warm *air* ▪ fresh *air* ▪ a sudden gust of *air* [=*wind*] ▪ polluted *air* ▪ stale *air* ▪ the hot summer *air* ▪ He can't breathe! Everybody move back and give him some *air*! ▪ High in the mountains the *air* is thin and it can be hard to breathe. ▪ He pumped *air* into the bicycle tire. ▪ My keys seem to have vanished/disappeared ***into thin air***. [=to have vanished in a very sudden and mysterious way] ▪ He seemed to appear ***out of thin air***. [=in a very sudden and mysterious way] — see also *a breath of fresh air* at BREATH **b** : the space or sky that is filled with air ▪ land, water, and *air* ▪ The city is wonderful seen from the *air*. ▪ the fish of the sea and the birds of the *air* ▪ The balloon rose up into the *air* and then floated through/in the *air*. ▪ There has been heavy fighting on the ground and in the *air*.

2 [*noncount*] : methods of travel that involve flying ▪ travel ***by air*** [=by flying in airplanes] — often used before another noun ▪ an *air* attack ▪ *air* safety ▪ *air* travel/travelers

3 [*singular*] : a quality that a person or thing has ▪ a dignified *air* — often + *of* ▪ an *air of* dignity ▪ The new furniture has given the hotel an *air of* luxury. ▪ He has an *air of* mystery about him. [=he has a mysterious quality]

4 [*count*] *old-fashioned* : a song or tune ▪ a pleasing *air*

5 [*noncount*] *US* : AIR-CONDITIONING ▪ a house with central *air*

clear the air : to talk about problems, feelings, etc., in order to reach agreement or understanding ▪ They *cleared the air* (between them) by discussing their differences.

floating on air *or* ***walking on air*** : feeling very happy ▪ After he won the election, he was *walking on air*.

give yourself airs *or* ***put on airs*** : to act in a way that shows you think you are better than other people ▪ Some of her old friends have accused her of *putting on airs* since she became wealthy. ▪ She's very rich, but she doesn't *give herself airs*. ✧ In British English, the phrase ***airs and graces*** describes an overly superior or proud way of behaving. ▪ She's very rich, but she doesn't *give herself any airs and graces*. = She doesn't have any *airs and graces*. = She doesn't put on any *airs and graces*.

hang in the air see *hang in* at ¹HANG

in the air **1** : felt or sensed by many people ▪ There was a great sense of anticipation *in the air* as game time approached. **2** : expected to happen soon ▪ Many changes are *in the air*.

nose in the air see ¹NOSE

off the air *of a radio or television station, program, etc.* : not being broadcast ▪ The station is now *off the air*. ▪ They took him *off the air* because of his extreme views. ▪ It was my favorite show, but it ***went off the air*** [=stopped being broadcast] last year.

on the air *also* ***on air*** *of a radio or television station, program, etc.* : being broadcast ▪ The interview will be *on the air* tomorrow. [=the interview will air tomorrow; the interview will be broadcast tomorrow] ▪ an interview being shown *on air* ▪ a show that first ***came/went on the air*** [=started being broadcast] five years ago ▪ The President *went on the air* to defend his policies.

up in the air : not yet settled or decided ▪ Our vacation plans are still *up in the air*.

– air•less /ˈeɚləs/ *adj* ▪ a hot, *airless* room

²air *verb* **airs; aired; air•ing**

1 a : to place something in an open area where there is a lot of moving air to make it cool, dry, or clean [+ *obj*] *air* a blanket ▪ *air* damp clothing [*no obj*] The blankets were left outside to *air*. **b** : to allow air from the outside to enter something (such as a room) so that it becomes fresher or cleaner [+ *obj*] She opened the windows to *air* the room. — usually + *out* in U.S. English ▪ She opened the windows to *air out* the room. ▪ *air out* a closet [*no obj*] — usually + *out* in U.S. English ▪ She opened the windows to let the room *air out*.

2 [+ *obj*] : to make (something) known in public : to state (something) publicly ▪ The company had a meeting so that employees could *air* their complaints/grievances. ▪ publicly *airing* their differences ▪ Let's not ***air our dirty laundry*** [=discuss our problems, make our problems known] in public.

3 : to broadcast something on radio or television [+ *obj*] *air* a program ▪ The interview will be *aired* tomorrow. [*no obj*] The program *airs* daily. ▪ The interview will *air* tomorrow.

air bag *noun, pl* **~ bags** [*count*] : a bag that fills with air to protect a driver or passenger when a vehicle crashes

air ball *noun, pl* **~ balls** [*count*] *basketball* : a shot that completely misses the basket

air base *noun, pl* **~ bases** [*count*] : a place where military aircraft take off and land : a base of operations for military aircraft

air bed *noun, pl* **~ beds** [*count*] : AIR MATTRESS

air•borne /ˈeɚˌboɚn/ *adj*

1 : in the air : moving or being carried through the air ▪ Once the plane was *airborne* I loosened my seat belt. ▪ *airborne* dust particles

2 *of soldiers* : specially trained to jump from airplanes into enemy territory for battle ▪ Thousands of *airborne* troops parachuted behind enemy lines. ▪ *airborne* forces; *also* : of or relating to airborne soldiers ▪ *airborne* combat ▪ *airborne* divisions/operations

¹air•brush /ˈeɚˌbrʌʃ/ *noun, pl* **-brush•es** [*count*] : a device that is used to spray a liquid (such as paint) onto a surface

²airbrush *verb* **-brush•es; -brushed; -brush•ing** [+ *obj*] : to paint or treat (something, such as a photograph) with an airbrush especially to make improvements ▪ That photograph must have been *airbrushed*. ▪ The model's blemishes were ***airbrushed out*** in the photograph. [=an airbrush was used to change the photograph so that the model's blemishes could not be seen] — sometimes used figuratively ▪ The au-

A

thorities tried to *airbrush out* their mistake and pretend it had never happened.

Air•bus /'eɚˌbʌs/ *trademark* — used for a jet plane that carries passengers for short distances

air conditioner *noun, pl* ~ **-ers** [*count*] : a machine that is used to cool and dry the air in a building, room, etc.

air–con•di•tion•ing /ˌeɚkən'dɪʃənɪŋ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a system used for cooling and drying the air in a building, room, etc. ▪ She wanted her house to have *air-conditioning*. ▪ We bought a car with *air-conditioning*. — often used before another noun ▪ an *air-conditioning* system ▪ *air-conditioning* ducts/equipment — abbr. *AC*

– **air–con•di•tioned** /ˌeɚkən'dɪʃənd/ *adj* ▪ an *air-conditioned* building/room/car

air•craft /'eɚˌkræft, *Brit* 'ɛəˌkrɑ:ft/ *noun, pl* **aircraft** [*count*] : a machine (such as an airplane or a helicopter) that flies through the air ▪ a new military *aircraft* ▪ a company that manufactures *aircraft* — often used before another noun ▪ an *aircraft* engine ▪ *aircraft* parts

aircraft carrier *noun, pl* ~ **-ers** [*count*] : a military ship that has a large deck where aircraft take off and land

air•drop /'eɚˌdrɑ:p/ *noun, pl* **-drops** [*count*] : the act or action of delivering supplies by parachute from an airplane during an emergency when other methods are not possible ▪ The group organized an *airdrop* of food for the refugees.

– **air–drop** /'eɚˌdrɑ:p/ *verb* **-drops**; **-dropped**; **-drop•ping** [+ *obj*] ▪ Supplies were *air-dropped* to the refugees.

air–dry /'eɚ'draɪ/ *verb* **-dries**; **-dried**; **-dry•ing** : to dry something by placing it in an open area where there is a lot of moving air [+ *obj*] *air-dry* a blanket [*no obj*] She let the blanket *air-dry* before she put it away.

air•fare /'eɚˌfeɚ/ *noun, pl* **-fares** [*count*] : the money a person pays to travel on an airplane ▪ round-trip *airfare*

air•field /'eɚˌfi:ld/ *noun, pl* **-fields** [*count*] : a field or airport where airplanes take off and land ▪ a military *airfield*

air force *noun, pl* ~ **forces** [*count*] : the part of a country's military forces that fights with airplanes ▪ the combined allied *air forces* — usually capitalized when a specific air force is being referred to ▪ the British *Air Force* ▪ She joined the (U.S.) *Air Force* after she graduated from high school.

air gun *noun, pl* ~ **guns** [*count*] : a gun that uses air pressure to shoot small pellets

air•head /'eɚˌhɛd/ *noun, pl* **-heads** [*count*] *informal* : a silly and stupid person ▪ She is not the *airhead* you think she is.

air•ing /'erɪŋ/ *noun, pl* **-ings** : an occurrence in which something is aired: such as **a** [*singular*] : an occurrence in which something (such as an idea) is made known to many people so that it can be discussed ▪ His ideas deserve an *airing*. [=his ideas deserve to be aired] ▪ A full *airing* of the issue is scheduled. **b** [*count*] : an occurrence in which a radio or television program is broadcast ▪ The series had its first *airing* [=the series was first aired/broadcast] on a local channel. ▪ the *airing* [=*broadcast*] of a presidential debate **c** [*count*] : an occurrence in which fresh air is allowed to fill a place or to surround something ▪ give the room an *airing* [=air the room] by opening the windows

airing cupboard *noun, pl* ~ **-boards** [*count*] *Brit* : a heated cupboard in which sheets, towels, clothes, etc., are kept warm and dry

air•lift /'eɚˌlɪft/ *noun, pl* **-lifts** [*count*] : an occurrence in which people or things are carried to or from a place by airplanes during an emergency when other methods are not possible ▪ an emergency *airlift* to deliver supplies to the famine victims

– **airlift** *verb* **-lifts**; **-lift•ed**; **-lift•ing** [+ *obj*] ▪ Soldiers were *airlifted* to the frontier's borders. ▪ The organization was *airlifting* supplies to the famine victims.

air•line /'eɚˌlaɪn/ *noun, pl* **-lines** [*count*] : a company that owns and operates many airplanes which are used for carrying passengers and goods to different places ▪ a major *airline* — often used before another noun ▪ an *airline* pilot ▪ *airline* passengers

air•lin•er /'eɚˌlaɪnɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : a large airplane used for carrying passengers

air lock *noun, pl* ~ **locks** [*count*] : a small room that has two doors which can be sealed tightly so that no air enters or leaves and that is used for moving between two spaces with different air pressures in a submarine, spaceship, etc.

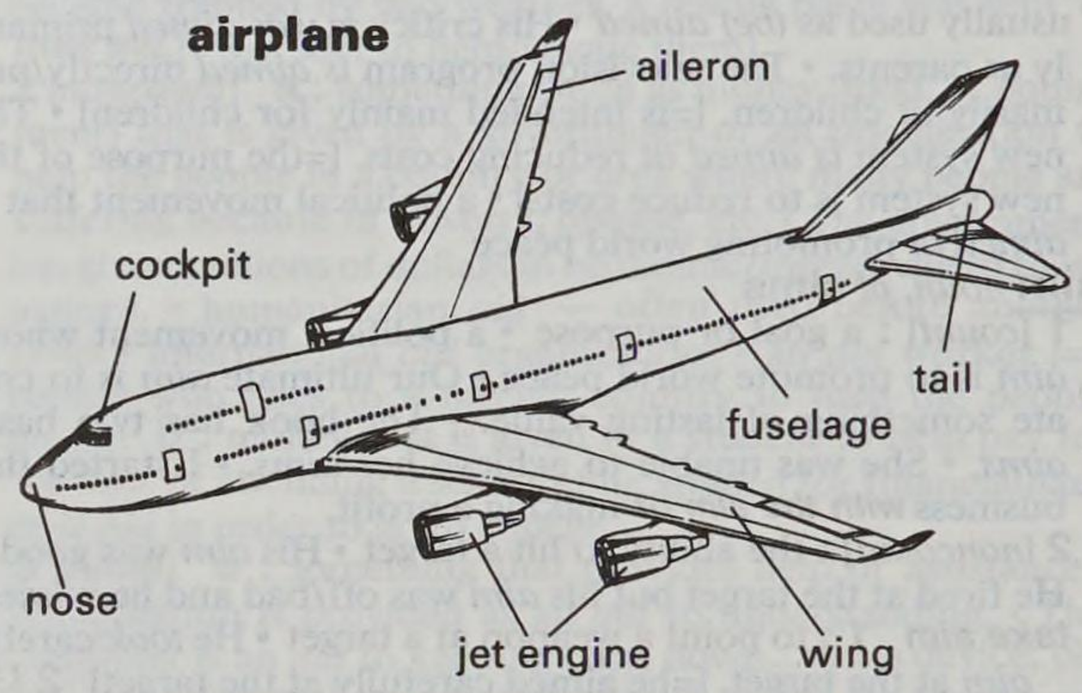
air•mail /'eɚˌmeɪl/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the system used for sending mail by aircraft ▪ The package was sent by/via *airmail*.; *also* : mail sent by using this system ▪ a bag of *airmail* — often used before another noun ▪ an *airmail* letter ▪ *airmail* postage

– **airmail** *verb* **-mails**; **-mailed**; **-mail•ing** [+ *obj*] ▪ He *airmailed* the letter/package to me. = He *airmailed* me the letter/package.

air•man /'eɚmən/ *noun, pl* **-men** /-mən/ [*count*] : a member of the air force with a rank below that of sergeant

air mattress *noun, pl* ~ **-tress•es** [*count*] : a soft plastic case that can be filled with air and used as a bed — called also *air bed*; see picture at CAMPING

air•plane /'eɚˌpleɪn/ *noun, pl* **-planes** [*count*] *US* : a machine that has wings and an engine and that flies through the air ▪ traveling on/in an *airplane* = traveling by *airplane* — called also *plane*, (*Brit*) *aeroplane*



air•play /'eɚˌpleɪ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : time when a musical recording is played by a radio station ▪ Her latest record is getting a lot of *airplay*. [=is being played frequently on the radio] ▪ heavy/light *airplay*

air pocket *noun, pl* ~ **-ets** [*count*] : a movement or condition of the air that causes an airplane to make a brief and sudden downward drop

air•port /'eɚˌpoɚt/ *noun, pl* **-ports** [*count*] : a place where aircraft land and take off and where there are buildings for passengers to wait in and for aircraft to be sheltered

air pump *noun, pl* ~ **pumps** [*count*] : a pump used for removing air from or adding air to something (such as a tire)

air raid *noun, pl* ~ **raids** [*count*] : an attack in which a place is bombed by military airplanes ▪ Much of the city was destroyed in an *air raid*. ▪ an *air-raid* shelter

air rifle *noun, pl* ~ **rifles** [*count*] : a rifle that uses air pressure to shoot small pellets

air•ship /'eɚˌʃɪp/ *noun, pl* **-ships** [*count*] : a very large aircraft that does not have wings but that has a body filled with gas so that it floats and that is driven through the air by engines

air show *noun, pl* ~ **shows** [*count*] : a public event at an airport where different kinds of aircraft are shown and pilots use their skills to fly in unusual and exciting ways

air•sick /'eɚˌsɪk/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : feeling sick in the stomach while riding in an airplane because of its motion

– **air•sick•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

air•space /'eɚˌspeɪs/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the space that is above a country and that is legally controlled by that country ▪ seeking permission to fly through U.S. *airspace*

air•speed /'eɚˌspi:d/ *noun, pl* **-speeds** [*count*] : the speed at which an aircraft moves through the air

air strike *noun, pl* ~ **strikes** [*count*] : an attack in which military airplanes drop bombs ▪ The strategy calls for *air strikes* on key targets.

air•strip /'eɚˌstrɪp/ *noun, pl* **-strips** [*count*] : an area of land that is used as a runway for airplanes to take off and land

air•tight /'eɚˌtaɪt/ *adj*

1 : tightly sealed so that no air can get in or out ▪ Store the food in an *airtight* container.

2 : too strong or effective to fail or to be defeated ▪ an *airtight* argument ▪ The defendant had an *airtight* alibi.

air•time /'eɚˌtaɪm/ *noun* [*noncount*] : time during a radio or television broadcast : time when something is on the air ▪ The committee plans to buy radio/TV *airtime* for the campaign ads. ▪ The replay got a lot of *airtime*. [=the replay was broadcast frequently]

air–to–air /ˌeɚtə'weɚ/ *adj* : shot from one flying airplane at another ▪ The enemy planes attacked our bombers with *air-to-air* missiles.

air traffic control *noun* [*noncount*]
1 : a system through which people on the ground give instructions by radio to aircraft pilots
2 : the people who give instructions to aircraft pilots by radio ▪ The pilot had permission to land from *air traffic control*.

air traffic controller *noun, pl* ~ **-lers** [*count*] : a person whose job is to give instructions to aircraft pilots by radio

air•waves /ˈeɚˌweɪvz/ *noun* [*plural*] : the signals used to broadcast radio and television programs ▪ The ads have begun to fill network *airwaves*. [=to appear frequently on network television] — usually used with *the* ▪ The ads have begun to fill *the airwaves*. ▪ The band's new recording ***hit the airwaves*** [=was broadcast for the first time] yesterday. ▪ news being broadcast ***on/over the airwaves***

air•way /ˈeɚˌweɪ/ *noun, pl* **-ways** [*count*]
1 *medical* : the area in the throat through which air passes to and from the lungs ▪ a patient with a partially blocked *airway* — often plural ▪ a patient with partially blocked *airways*
2 : a route along which airplanes regularly fly
3 — used in the names of some airlines ▪ British *Airways*

air•wor•thy /ˈeɚˌwɚði/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : fit or safe for flying ▪ The agency considered the plane *airworthy*. ▪ an *airworthy* helicopter — compare ROADWORTHY, SEAWORTHY
– **air•wor•thi•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

airy /ˈeri/ *adj* **air•i•er; -est**
1 : having a lot of open space through which air can move freely ▪ The room is open, light, and *airy*. ▪ an *airy* restaurant
2 : having a light or careless quality that shows a lack of concern ▪ He refused with an *airy* wave of his hand.
3 : very light or delicate ▪ an *airy* fabric
4 : high in the air : LOFTY ▪ The hawk gazed down from its *airy* perch.
– **air•i•ly** /ˈerəli/ *adv* ▪ He *airily* dismissed all advice. – **air•i•ness** /ˈerinəs/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the *airiness* of the room

airy–fairy /ˈeriˈferi/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *chiefly Brit, informal + disapproving* : not having substance or purpose : not practical ▪ a vague and *airy-fairy* fantasy/notion ▪ The idea sounded a bit *airy-fairy*.

aisle /ˈajəl/ *noun, pl* **aisles** [*count*] : a passage where people walk: such as **a** : a passage between sections of seats in a church, theater, airplane, etc. — see picture at THEATER ▪ The bride walked down/up the *aisle* to the altar. ▪ He likes to sit ***on the aisle***. = He likes to sit in the ***aisle seat***. [=he likes to sit in the seat next to the aisle] ▪ By the end of the concert, the people in the theater were ***dancing in the aisles***. ✧ When the people of an audience are laughing a lot, they can be described as ***rolling in the aisles***. ▪ a new comedy that has audiences *rolling in the aisles* all across the country **b** : a passage where people walk through a store, market, etc. ▪ supermarket *aisles*

walk down the aisle *also* ***go down the aisle*** *informal* : to get married ▪ She's been married twice before, and she's going to *walk down the aisle* again next week.

ajar /əˈʤɑɚ/ *adj, not used before a noun* : slightly open ▪ He left the door *ajar*. ▪ Her mouth was slightly *ajar*.

AK *abbr* Alaska

aka /ˌeɪˌkeɪˈeɪ/ *abbr* also known as — used to indicate another name that a person or thing has or uses ▪ Elvis Presley, *aka* "The King"

akim•bo /əˈkɪmboʊ/ *adj, not used before a noun*
1 *of the arms* : with the hands on the hips and the elbows turned outward ▪ She stood ***with arms akimbo***.
2 *of the legs* : spread apart in a bent position ▪ sitting ***with legs akimbo***

akin /əˈkɪn/ *adj, not used before a noun* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : similar or related ▪ The two languages are closely *akin*. — usually + *to* ▪ The two languages are closely *akin to* one another. ▪ a feeling *akin to* loneliness [=a feeling that resembles loneliness] ▪ To break your promise to him would be *akin to* betraying your friendship.

AL *abbr* Alabama

[1]-al *adj suffix* : of, relating to, or characterized by ▪ direction*al* ▪ fiction*al* ▪ operation*al*

[2]-al *noun suffix* : action : process ▪ rehears*al* ▪ withdraw*al*

à la /ˌɑːˌlɑː/ *prep* : in the manner or style of (someone or something) ▪ walking with a swagger *à la* John Wayne

al•a•bas•ter /ˈæləˌbæstɚ, *Brit* ˈæləˌbɑːstə/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a white stone that is used to make vases and decorations — often used before another noun ▪ an *alabaster* vase — sometimes used figuratively ▪ her *alabaster* skin [=her smooth and white skin]

à la carte /ˌɑːləˈkɑɚt/ *adv* : with a separate price for each item on the menu ▪ decided to order *à la carte*
– **à la carte** *adj* ▪ an *à la carte* menu

alac•ri•ty /əˈlækrəti/ *noun* : a quick and cheerful readiness to do something [*noncount*] She accepted the invitation ***with alacrity***. [=very quickly and willingly] [*singular*] She accepted the invitation with an *alacrity* that surprised me.

à la mode /ˌɑːləˈmoʊd/ *adj, not used before a noun*
1 *US* : topped with ice cream ▪ apple pie *à la mode*
2 *old-fashioned* : stylish or fashionable ▪ a political movement that was once *à la mode*

[1]alarm /əˈlɑɚm/ *noun, pl* **alarms**
1 [*count*] **a** : a device that makes a loud sound as a warning or signal ▪ The *alarm* went off when he opened the door. ▪ a car *alarm* ▪ The whole town heard the *alarm*. ✧ In figurative usage, when ***alarm bells are ringing*** people are worried about a possible problem or danger. ▪ His long absence from school ***set (the) alarm bells ringing*** and we finally called the police. — see also BURGLAR ALARM, FALSE ALARM, FIRE ALARM, SMOKE ALARM **b** : ALARM CLOCK ▪ She set the *alarm* for six o'clock. ▪ The *alarm* went off at six o'clock.
2 [*noncount*] : a feeling of fear caused by a sudden sense of danger ▪ The rumors caused widespread *alarm* and concern. ▪ His parents have expressed *alarm* about/for his safety. ▪ The new developments are being viewed ***with alarm***. ▪ She looked around ***in alarm*** when she heard the noise. ▪ There's ***no cause for alarm***. [=there is no reason to be worried or afraid] ***synonyms*** see [1]FEAR
3 [*count*] : a warning of danger ▪ The dog's barking gave the *alarm* and the intruders were caught. ▪ A passerby saw the intruders and raised the *alarm*. ▪ They have ignored repeated *alarms* about the dangers of smoking. ▪ Economists have ***raised/sounded the alarm*** [=have warned people] about a possible recession. ▪ Economists have been ***raising/sounding alarms*** about a possible recession.

[2]alarm *verb* **alarms; alarmed; alarm•ing** [+ *obj*] : to cause (someone) to feel a sense of danger : to worry or frighten (someone) ▪ I didn't mean to *alarm* you. ▪ The rapid spread of the disease has *alarmed* many people.
– **alarmed** *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ I was *alarmed* to see how sick he is. ▪ Many people are *alarmed* about/at/by the rapid spread of the disease. – **alarming** *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ an *alarming* number of problems ▪ It is *alarming* to see how quickly the disease is spreading. ▪ The team lost with *alarming* frequency. – **alarm•ing•ly** /əˈlɑɚmɪŋli/ *adv*

alarm clock *noun, pl* ~ **clocks** [*count*] : a clock that can be set to sound an alarm at any desired time ▪ She set the *alarm clock* for six o'clock. ▪ The *alarm clock* went off at six o'clock.

alarm•ist /əˈlɑɚmɪst/ *noun, pl* **-ists** [*count*] : a person who spreads unnecessary fear about something that is not truly dangerous ▪ He wanted to alert people without sounding like an *alarmist*. ▪ He claims that *alarmists* have exaggerated the economy's problems.
– **alarm•ism** /əˈlɑɚˌmɪzəm/ *noun* [*noncount*] – **alarm•ist** *adj* ▪ an *alarmist* report ▪ *alarmist* critics

alas /əˈlæs/ *interj, old-fashioned + literary* — used to express sadness, sorrow, disappointment, etc. ▪ How did they fare? *Alas*, not very well. ▪ Life, *alas*, is all too short.

al•ba•tross /ˈælbəˌtrɑːs/ *noun, pl* **-tross•es** [*count*]
1 : a large white ocean bird that has very long wings
2 : a continuing problem that makes it difficult or impossible to do or achieve something ▪ Fame has become an *albatross* that prevents her from leading a normal and happy life. ▪ Fame has become ***an albatross around her neck***.

al•be•it /ɑlˈbiːjət/ *conj, formal* : even though : ALTHOUGH ▪ She appeared on the show, *albeit* briefly. ▪ It was an amazing computer, *albeit* expensive.

al•bi•no /ælˈbaɪnoʊ, *Brit* ælˈbiːnoʊ/ *noun, pl* **-nos** [*count*] : a person or animal born with a medical condition that results in very pale skin, white hair, and pink eyes
– **al•bi•nism** /ˈælbəˌnɪzəm/ *noun* [*noncount*] – **albino** *adj* ▪ an *albino* mouse

al•bum /ˈælbəm/ *noun, pl* **-bums** [*count*]
1 : a book with blank pages in which you put a collection of photographs, stamps, etc. ▪ a photo/stamp *album* ▪ I've been working on our wedding/family *album*. [=book of wedding/family photographs]
2 : a long musical recording on a record, CD, etc., that usually includes a set of songs ▪ She played a track from the group's latest *album*. ▪ a 2-CD *album* ▪ a pop/jazz/country *album* — compare [2]SINGLE 4

al•bu•men /æl'bju:mən, *Brit* 'ælbjʊmən/ *noun* [*noncount*] *technical* : the part of the inside of an egg that is clear before it is cooked and white after it is cooked : the white of an egg

al•che•my /'ælkəmi/ *noun, pl* **-mies**
1 [*noncount*] : a science that was used in the Middle Ages with the goal of changing ordinary metals into gold
2 : a power or process that changes or transforms something in a mysterious or impressive way [*noncount*] She practiced her *alchemy* in the kitchen, turning a pile of vegetables into a delicious salad. [*count*] The company hoped for some sort of economic *alchemy* that would improve business.
– **al•che•mist** /'ælkəmɪst/ *noun, pl* **-mists** [*count*]

al•co•hol /'ælkə,hɑ:l/ *noun, pl* **-hols**
1 : a clear liquid that has a strong smell, that is used in some medicines and other products, and that is the substance in liquors (such as beer, wine, or whiskey) that can make a person drunk [*noncount*] cough medicine that contains *alcohol* ▪ drinks that are high in *alcohol* ▪ There was a high level of *alcohol* in his blood at the time of the accident. ▪ drug and *alcohol* abuse [*count*] a mixture of different *alcohols* — see also RUBBING ALCOHOL
2 [*noncount*] : drinks containing alcohol ▪ The restaurant had a license to serve *alcohol*. ▪ She doesn't drink *alcohol*.

[1]al•co•hol•ic /,ælkə'hɑ:lɪk/ *adj*
1 [*more* ~; *most* ~] : of, containing, or caused by alcohol ▪ an *alcoholic* odor ▪ *alcoholic* drinks/beverages ▪ a slightly more *alcoholic* wine ▪ *alcoholic* liver disease
2 : affected with alcoholism ▪ She has an *alcoholic* uncle.
– **al•co•hol•i•cal•ly** /,ælkə'hɑ:lɪkli/ *adv*

[2]alcoholic *noun, pl* **-ics** [*count*] : a person who frequently drinks too much alcohol and is unable to live a normal and healthy life : a person who is affected with alcoholism ▪ Her uncle is an *alcoholic*. ▪ a recovering *alcoholic*

al•co•hol•ism /'ælkə,hɑ:,lɪzəm/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a medical condition in which someone frequently drinks too much alcohol and becomes unable to live a normal and healthy life

al•cove /'æl,koʊv/ *noun, pl* **-coves** [*count*] : a small section of a room that is set back from the rest of it

al dente /ɑl'dɛnteɪ/ *adj* : cooked but still firm ▪ *al dente* carrots ▪ *al dente* pasta = pasta *al dente*
– **al dente** *adv* ▪ The pasta was cooked *al dente*.

al•der /'ɑ:ldɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ders** [*count*] : a type of tree or shrub that grows in wet ground in some northern countries

al•der•man /'ɑ:ldɚmən/ *noun, pl* **-men** /-mən/ [*count*]
1 : a member of a city government in the U.S., Canada, and Australia ▪ the board of *aldermen*
2 : a senior member of an English town, county, or borough council who is elected by the other members — not used officially in Britain after 1974
– **al•der•man•ic** /,ɑ:ldɚ'mænɪk/ *adj*

ale /'eɪl/ *noun, pl* **ales** : an alcoholic drink that is similar to beer [*noncount*] a glass of *ale* [*count*] The bar serves two very different *ales*. — see also GINGER ALE

aleck see SMART-ALECK

ale•house /'eɪl,haʊs/ *noun, pl* **-hous•es** [*count*] *Brit, old-fashioned* : a place where people used to drink ale and beer

[1]alert /ə'lɚt/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : able to think clearly and to notice things ▪ An *alert* guard stopped the robbers. ▪ The nurse kept/stayed *alert* for any change [=watched for any change] in the patient's condition. ▪ He was tired and had trouble staying *alert* while he was driving. ▪ She wasn't mentally *alert* enough to answer the questions. ▪ an *alert* mind ▪ An *alert* watchdog guarded the door. — often + *to* ▪ The nurse should be *alert to* any change in the patient's condition. ▪ He is *alert to* [=*aware of*] his duties as a father.
– **alert•ly** *adv* ▪ A watchdog *alertly* guarded the door.
– **alert•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

[2]alert *noun, pl* **alerts**
1 [*count*] : something (such as a message or loud sound) that tells people there is some danger or problem : an alarm or signal of danger ▪ They sounded an *alert* when enemy planes were approaching the city. ▪ Medical officials have put out an *alert* to hospitals to look out for the virus. ▪ The government has issued a terrorism/security *alert*.
2 [*noncount*] : the state of being ready for something you have been warned about (such as an attack) — used with *on* ▪ We need to be *on alert* for any sudden changes. ▪ The attack could come at any time, so the soldiers need to be ***on full alert***. ▪ The recently flooded community is again ***on high alert*** as more rain is expected. — see also RED ALERT
on the alert : looking for or expecting something (such as danger or an opportunity) ▪ The soldiers need to be *on the alert* at all times. — often + *for* ▪ When you're driving in winter you should always be *on the alert for* icy conditions. ▪ I'm always *on the alert for* a good bargain.

[3]alert *verb* **alerts**; **alert•ed**; **alert•ing** [+ *obj*]
1 : to give (someone) important information about a possible problem, danger, etc. : to warn (someone) ▪ Several neighbors *alerted* the authorities/police when they noticed strangers acting suspiciously. ▪ The governor *alerted* island residents that a hurricane was coming.
2 : to make (someone) aware of something ▪ The teacher *alerted* the students that tests would be given the next day. — often + *to* ▪ A friend recently *alerted* me *to* the existence of a new museum in my city. ▪ We need to *alert* the public *to* the dangers of these chemicals. [=we need to tell the public about the dangers of these chemicals]

A level *noun, pl* **A levels** [*count*] *Brit* : an advanced test in a particular subject that students in England, Wales, and Northern Ireland take usually at the age of 18 ▪ The university requires at least three *A levels*. ▪ She got an A in her *A levels* in maths, physics, and chemistry. — called also *Advanced level*; compare O LEVEL, S LEVEL

al•fal•fa /æl'fælfə/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a type of plant that is grown mostly as food for farm animals

al•fres•co /æl'frɛskoʊ/ *adv* : in the open air : OUTDOORS, OUTSIDE ▪ an artist who likes to paint *alfresco* ▪ We dined *alfresco*.
– **alfresco** *adj* ▪ *alfresco* dining ▪ an *alfresco* restaurant [=a restaurant with outdoor dining]

al•gae /'ælʤi/ *noun* [*plural*] : simple plants that have no leaves or stems and that grow in or near water ▪ pond *algae* ▪ seaweeds and other *algae*

al•ge•bra /'ælʤəbrə/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a branch of mathematics that uses numbers and letters that represent numbers
– **al•ge•bra•ic** /,ælʤə'brejɪk/ *adj* ▪ *algebraic* equations/problems

al•go•rithm /'ælgə,rɪðəm/ *noun, pl* **-rithms** [*count*] *technical* : a set of steps that are followed in order to solve a mathematical problem or to complete a computer process

[1]ali•as /'eɪlijəs/ *adv* : also called : otherwise known as — used to indicate an additional name that a person (such as a criminal) sometimes uses ▪ The thief was identified as John Smith, *alias* Richard Jones. [=John Smith, who is also known as Richard Jones]

[2]alias *noun, pl* **-as•es** [*count*] : an additional name that a person (such as a criminal) sometimes uses ▪ a fugitive using several *aliases* ▪ He was traveling ***under an alias***. [=he was traveling under an assumed name; he was using a name that was not his real name]

al•i•bi /'ælə,baɪ/ *noun, pl* **-bis** [*count*]
1 : a claim that you cannot be guilty of a crime because you were somewhere else when the crime was committed ▪ Nobody could confirm his *alibi* that he was at the movies. ▪ He has an ironclad/perfect *alibi*. [=an alibi that cannot be proved false]; *also* : evidence which shows that such a claim is true ▪ Her doctor is her *alibi*: she was in surgery at the time of the murder.
2 : an excuse for not being somewhere or doing something ▪ She made up an *alibi* for why she missed the meeting.

[1]alien /'eɪlijən/ *adj*
1 [*more* ~; *most* ~] : not familiar or like other things you have known : different from what you are used to ▪ She felt lost in an *alien* [=*strange*] culture when she moved to the city. ▪ an *alien* environment ▪ Honesty seems to be an *alien* concept in that family. [=people in that family are not honest] — often + *to* ▪ The whole idea of having a job was *alien* [=*unfamiliar, foreign*] *to* him.
2 : from another country : FOREIGN ▪ *alien* residents
3 [*more* ~; *most* ~] : too different from something to be acceptable or suitable — + *to* ▪ Such behavior is totally *alien to* the spirit of the religion. ▪ ideas *alien to* [=*incompatible with*] democracy
4 : from somewhere other than the planet Earth ▪ an *alien* spaceship ▪ The movie is a story about an attack on Earth by an army of *alien* [=*extraterrestrial*] monsters.

[2]alien *noun, pl* **aliens** [*count*]
1 : a person who was born in a different country and is not a citizen of the country in which he or she now lives ▪ *aliens* seeking asylum in the U.S. ▪ ***illegal aliens*** [=foreign people who live in a country without having official permission to live there]
2 : a creature that comes from somewhere other than the

planet Earth ▪ The movie is about an invasion by *aliens*. [=*extraterrestrials*] ▪ He claims that he was captured by space *aliens*.

alien•ate /'eɪlijə,neɪt/ *verb* **-ates**; **-at•ed**; **-at•ing** [+ *obj*]
1 : to make (someone) unfriendly : to cause (someone) to stop being friendly, helpful, etc., towards you ▪ He *alienated* most of his colleagues with his bad temper. ▪ Her position on this issue has *alienated* many former supporters.
2 : to cause (someone) to feel that she or he no longer belongs in a particular group, society, etc. — + *from* ▪ Her position on this issue has *alienated* her *from* many voters. ▪ His drug problems have *alienated* him *from* his parents.
– **alienated** *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ He feels very *alienated* from his parents. ▪ *alienated* young people [=young people who do not feel that they have a part in society] – **alienation** /,eɪlijə'neɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ Her position on this issue has caused the *alienation* of many former supporters. ▪ His *alienation* from his parents stems from his drug problems. ▪ She has struggled with feelings of loneliness and *alienation* for much of her adult life.

[1]align /ə'laɪn/ *verb* **aligns**; **aligned**; **align•ing** *somewhat formal*
1 *of insects, birds, etc.* : to stop on a surface after flying ▪ A butterfly *alighted* [=*landed*] on her hat.
2 : to step down from a boat, vehicle, etc. ▪ A group of tourists *alighted* from the boat/bus/train.
alight on/upon [*phrasal verb*] ***alight on/upon (something)*** : to see, notice, or think of (something) ▪ Her eye/eyes *alighted on* a strange man in the crowd. ▪ a speaker who easily *alights upon* topics that interest a wide audience

[2]alight *adj, not used before a noun*
1 : full of light : lighted up ▪ The sky was *alight* with stars. — often used figuratively ▪ a face *alight* with excitement ▪ The children laughed, their eyes *alight*.
2 *chiefly Brit* : on fire : ABLAZE, AFIRE ▪ Enemy soldiers set the building *alight*.

align /ə'laɪn/ *verb* **aligns**; **aligned**; **align•ing**
1 : to arrange things so that they form a line or are in proper position [+ *obj*] The storekeeper carefully *aligned* [=*lined up*] the cans on the shelf. ▪ He *aligned* the two holes so he could put the screw through them. ▪ The text is *aligned* [=*in line*] with the bottom of the picture. ▪ The two parts of the machine are not properly *aligned*. [*no obj*] The two parts of the machine don't *align* [=*line up*] properly. ▪ The text *aligns* with the bottom of the picture.
2 [+ *obj*] : to change (something) so that it agrees with or matches something else ▪ The schools had to *align* their programs with state requirements.
3 : to join a group that is supporting or opposing something [+ *obj*] He has ***aligned himself with*** the protesters. [=he has joined the protesters] [*no obj*] She is *aligning* with other senators to oppose his nomination.

align•ment /ə'laɪnmənt/ *noun, pl* **-ments**
1 [*noncount*] : the state or condition of being aligned: such as **a** : the state of being arranged in a line or in proper position ▪ wheel *alignment* ▪ planetary *alignment* ▪ The parts were not ***in alignment***. = The parts were ***out of alignment***. [=the parts were not aligned] **b** : the state or condition of agreeing with or matching something else ▪ The school has to bring its programs ***into alignment*** with state requirements. **c** : the state of being joined with others in supporting or opposing something ▪ Many people were surprised by his *alignment* with the protesters. [=his support of the protesters]
2 [*count*] : an arrangement of groups or forces ▪ New *alignments* have been created within the political party.

[1]alike /ə'laɪk/ *adj, not used before a noun* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : similar in appearance, nature, or form ▪ The two cars are much *alike*. — often + *in* ▪ He and his brother are *alike in* their beliefs. [=they have similar beliefs] ▪ two apples *alike in* shape

[2]alike *adv* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : in the same way ▪ We think *alike*. ▪ a film intended for parents and teenagers *alike* [=intended for both parents and teenagers]

al•i•men•ta•ry canal /,ælə'mɛntri-/ *noun, pl* ~ **-als** [*count*] : the long tube in the body through which food passes after it is eaten ✧ The alimentary canal begins at the mouth and ends at the anus.

al•i•mo•ny /'ælə,moʊni, *Brit* 'æləməni/ *noun* [*noncount*] : money that a court orders someone to pay regularly to a former wife or husband after a divorce

A–line /'eɪ,laɪn/ *adj, always used before a noun, of a piece of clothing* : having a wide bottom and a close-fitting top : shaped like the letter *A* ▪ an *A-line* skirt

A–list /'eɪ,lɪst/ *noun* [*singular*] : a list or group of people who are very well-known or respected ▪ She's new on the celebrity *A-list*. ▪ *A-list* celebrities

alive /ə'laɪv/ *adj, not used before a noun*
1 : having life : living : not dead ▪ It feels great to be *alive*. ▪ The patient was barely *alive*. ▪ The sheriff was ordered to find the killer and bring him back *alive*. ▪ She must be the happiest woman *alive*. [=the happiest woman in the world] ▪ He managed to ***stay alive*** for a week without any food. ▪ The patient is being ***kept alive*** by artificial means.
2 a : continuing to exist ▪ an old tradition that is still *alive* ▪ We tried to keep the organization *alive* [=*active*] despite having fewer members. ▪ We need to keep hope *alive*. **b** : not yet defeated : still having a chance to win or succeed ▪ The legislation is still *alive* in the Senate. [=the legislation has not been defeated yet] ▪ The team needs to win tonight in order to stay *alive* in the play-offs.
3 [*more* ~; *most* ~] **a** : filled with life and energy ▪ I love to sail because it makes me feel so *alive*. — often + *with* ▪ Her face was *alive with* joy/happiness. **b** : filled with activity — usually + *with* ▪ flower gardens *alive with* bees [=filled with the activity of many bees] ▪ The city streets are *alive* [=*busy*] *with* shoppers.
alive and kicking : healthy and active ▪ She ran a marathon late in life, just to prove she was still *alive and kicking*. — often used figuratively ▪ After years of slow earnings, the industry is now *alive and kicking*.
alive and well **1** : living and healthy ▪ She found out that her aunt is *alive and well* and living in Arizona. **2** : still popular : continuing to be used ▪ Many of the old traditions are still *alive and well*.
alive to : aware of (something) : able to notice (something) ▪ Recovering from his illness has made him more *alive to* the beauty of life. ▪ We need to be *alive* [=*sensitive*] *to* new opportunities for our business to grow.
bring (something) alive : to make (something) seem more real or interesting ▪ The play *brings the old fairy tale alive*.
come alive : to become lively: such as **a** : to become excited and filled with energy ▪ The crowd *came alive* when the singer appeared on stage. **b** : to become filled with activity ▪ This neighborhood is quiet during the day, but it *comes alive* at night. **c** : to become exciting or appealing ▪ In her kitchen, Italian food *comes alive*.
eat (someone or something) alive see EAT
skin (someone) alive see [2]SKIN

al•ka•li /'ælkə,laɪ/ *noun, pl* **-lies** *or* **-lis** *chemistry* : a substance that has a bitter taste and that forms a salt when mixed with an acid [*count*] strong *alkalis* [*noncount*] smaller amounts of *alkali* ✧ An alkali has a pH of more than 7.

al•ka•line /'ælkə,laɪn/ *adj*
1 [*more* ~; *most* ~] : containing an alkali ▪ *alkaline* soil — compare ACIDIC
2 : having the qualities of an alkali ▪ *alkaline* conditions
– **al•ka•lin•i•ty** /,ælkə'lɪnəti/ *noun* [*noncount*]

[1]all /'ɑ:l/ *adj*
1 : the whole, entire, total amount, quantity, or extent of ▪ He stayed awake *all* night. [=the whole/entire night] ▪ She worked hard *all* day. [=throughout the entire day] ▪ I've been waiting *all* week to see her. ▪ He had to walk *all* the way home. ▪ She works *all* year round. ▪ He'll need *all* the help he can get. ▪ Someone took *all* the candy. ▪ It was one of the greatest victories of *all* time. [=one of the greatest victories ever] ▪ I think about her ***all the time***. [=I think about her constantly]
2 a : every member or part of — used with a plural noun or pronoun to mean that a statement is true of every person or thing in a group ▪ *All* my friends were there. ▪ a film suitable for *all* ages ▪ They *all* came late. ▪ We *all* need to work faster. ▪ I read *all* the magazines. = I read them *all*. ▪ *All* these eggs are ready. ▪ "'. . . *all* men are created equal . . .'" —*U.S. Declaration of Independence* (1776) ▪ She thinks *all* teenagers are alike. = She thinks teenagers are *all* alike. ▪ ***Not all*** teenagers are alike. = Teenagers are not *all* alike. ▪ They serve breakfast ***at all hours***. [=at any hour, at any time of day] ▪ They were up ***till/until all hours***. [=they were up very late] ▪ She has to deal with ***all kinds/sorts/types*** of people. [=with people of every kind/sort/type] **b** : the whole number or sum of — used with a plural noun or pronoun to mean that a statement is true of a group of people or things considered together ▪ It was great to see him again after *all* these years.
3 : any whatever ▪ His guilt is beyond *all* doubt. [=he is cer-

A

tainly guilty] ▪ She denied *all* [=*any*] responsibility for the accident.

4 a : as much as possible of (something) — used to indicate the manner in which something is done ▪ He spoke in *all* seriousness/innocence. [=he spoke in a completely serious/innocent way] **b :** having or showing only (some quality, feature, etc.) ▪ The students became *all* attention [=became very attentive] when the teacher came in. ▪ He was *all* smiles with the boss. [=he was smiling constantly when he was with the boss] ▪ This drink is too strong: it's *all* alcohol! **c** — used to indicate that someone has or seems to have a lot of or too much of some physical feature ▪ an actress who is *all* legs [=an actress who has very long legs] — see also *all ears* at ¹EAR, *all eyes* at ¹EYE, *all heart* at HEART, *all mouth* at ¹MOUTH, *all thumbs* at ¹THUMB

5 *US, chiefly Southern, informal* — used in speech to refer to a group of people or things ▪ Who *all* is coming? [=who is coming?] ▪ What *all* do we need to do? [=what are the things that we need to do?] — see also WHAT ALL, YOU-ALL

for all **:** in spite of (something) ▪ *For all* his confident talk, he is actually very unsure of himself. ▪ She still loves him, *for all* his faults.

of all (the) *informal* — used in phrases to express surprise, disapproval, anger, etc. ▪ Who should I meet in New York but Max *of all* people! = *Of all the* people in New York, who should I run into but Max! [=I was very surprised to meet Max in New York] ▪ Why did my car break down now *of all* times, when I can least afford it?! ▪ "He actually called you a fool!" "***Of all the nerve***!" [=I am shocked and offended that he called me a fool]

²all *adv*

1 : entirely or completely ▪ She sat *all* alone. ▪ She has traveled *all* around the world. ▪ This money will be *all* yours when I die. ▪ He got *all* wet. ▪ She had buttons *all* down the side of her dress. ▪ I forgot *all* about paying the bill. ▪ The noise continued *all* through the night. [=all night long, throughout the night] — often used to make a statement more forceful ▪ I'm *all* in favor of trying again. ▪ His criticisms were *all* out of proportion. ▪ These problems have been occurring ***all too*** often. [=much too often]

2 : for each side or player — used to indicate a tie score ▪ The score is 2 *all*. [=*apiece*] ▪ The game ended in a 5-*all* draw. ▪ We're tied at 3-*all* after seven innings.

3 *informal* **:** ¹VERY ▪ The kids got *all* excited when they saw Santa Claus.

all along see ²ALONG

all around *(US) or chiefly Brit* ***all round*** **1 :** in every way **:** from every point of view ▪ It was a good deal *all around*: we made money and nobody lost out. **2 :** for everyone ▪ Let's have drinks *all around*, bartender. — see also ALL-AROUND

all of **1 :** not more than — used to stress that an amount is surprisingly small ▪ She learned to fly a plane when she was *all of* 16 years old. ▪ The team scored *all of* six points the entire game. **2 :** as much as — used to stress that an amount is somewhat large ▪ The prize is now worth *all of* 10 million dollars.

all over **1 a :** over an entire area ▪ We looked *all over* [=*everywhere*] for you. **b :** in every part of (something) ▪ The flower can be found *all over* the island in spring and early summer. ▪ He's lived *all over* Texas. ▪ In his office there are books piled ***all over the place***. [=*everywhere*] — see also ALLOVER **2** *informal* **:** very critical of (someone) ▪ She was *all over* me for being late. **3** *informal* **:** crowding around, pushing against, or touching (someone) in a very eager or aggressive way ▪ The band's fans were *all over* them. ▪ Look at that young couple. They're *all over* each other! [=they are kissing, touching, etc., very passionately] ▪ She tried to score, but the other team's defense was *all over* her. **4** *chiefly Brit, informal* **:** in every way ▪ She's her mother *all over*. [=she's just like her mother] ▪ Late again, is she? That's her *all over*. [=that's very typical of her]

all that **:** to a high degree — usually used in negative statements ▪ I wasn't *all that* [=*very*] interested in the story. ▪ The movie wasn't *all that* [=*so*] bad. — see also *all that* at ¹THAT

all the — used to give added force to a word like "more" or "better" ▪ With the economy in such bad shape, it's *all the more* important [=it's even more important] that we correct these problems quickly. ▪ If we arrive early, *all the better*. [=it will be even better if we arrive early]

all told **:** with everything considered or included **:** in all ▪ *All told*, it took us three full days to get there. ▪ There were seven of us *all told*.

go all out see ¹GO

not all there *informal* — used to describe a person who is somewhat strange or stupid ▪ Her aunt is very sweet but *not all there* (mentally).

³all *pronoun*

1 : the entire number, quantity, or amount ▪ *All* [=*everything*] that I have is yours. ▪ *All* [=*everything*] will be explained soon. ▪ She told us *all* about what happened. ▪ Her other books were good, but this one is the best of *all*. ▪ *All* are welcome! [=everyone is welcome] ▪ We *all* enjoyed the movie. = *All* of us enjoyed the movie. ▪ Many people were invited and *all* came. ▪ His stories may be entertaining, but I don't think *all* (of them) are true. ▪ Thanks to *all* who helped out. ▪ *All* of this money will be yours when I die. ▪ Not *all* of our students go on to college. ▪ It ***was all (that) I could do*** to keep from laughing! [=I had a hard time trying not to laugh] ▪ "Is there anything else to be done?" "No, ***that's all***." ▪ He gave equal attention to ***one and all***. [=to everyone] ▪ ***Come one, come all***. [=everyone is invited to come] ***usage*** see ALTOGETHER

2 : the only thing ▪ That's *all* I can do to help. ▪ *All* I know is that the game was canceled. I don't know why.

above all see ²ABOVE

after all see ²AFTER

All aboard! see ¹ABOARD

all in all *informal* **:** in a general way **:** when everything is thought of or considered ▪ *All in all* [=*in general, generally, for the most part*], I like the way things have gone. ▪ We did lose some money, but we got most of it back. So *all in all* things might have been a lot worse.

all's fair in love and war see ¹FAIR

all told **:** including everything or everyone — used to indicate a total ▪ The cost of the repairs came to about $300 *all told*. [=*in all*] [=the total cost of the repairs was about $300]

and all **1 :** and everything else ▪ What with the noise outside, the fire *and all*, we got hardly any sleep. ▪ He endured everything, insults *and all*, without getting angry. **2** *Brit, informal* — used to emphasize a response ▪ "It's really hot out!" "It is *and all*!" [=it certainly is]

at all — used to make a statement or question more forceful ▪ He will go anywhere *at all* to get a job. ▪ Did you find out anything *at all*? — used especially in negative statements ▪ "Did she say anything?" "No, nothing *at all*." ▪ I don't mind cooking *at all*. ▪ It's not *at all* what you think it is. It's something else entirely. ▪ I wasn't tired *at all*. = I wasn't *at all* tired. [=I wasn't even slightly tired] ▪ This chair is not *at all* comfortable. ▪ I didn't like it *at all*. ▪ That is not *at all* likely.

✧ The phrase ***not at all*** is sometimes used as a polite response when someone thanks you. ▪ "Thank you for all your trouble." "*Not at all*." ▪ "That was very kind of you." "*Not at all*. It was the least I could do."

for all see ¹FOR

for all I know see ¹KNOW

for all (someone) cares see ²CARE

give your all **:** to do or give as much as you can to achieve something, to support a cause, etc. ▪ He *gave his all* for the cause. = He *gave his all* to help the cause. ▪ You'll never succeed in this business unless you *give (it) your all*.

in all **:** including everything or everyone — used to indicate a total ▪ There were about a thousand people at the concert *in all*. [=*all told*]

once and for all see ¹ONCE

that is all see ¹THAT

when all is said and done **:** after considering or doing everything — used for a final general statement or judgment ▪ It won't be easy, but *when all is said and done*, we'll be glad we did it. ▪ The candidates claim to have different views but, *when all is said and done*, they're very much alike.

all- *combining form*

1 : entirely **:** completely ▪ an *all*-wool suit ▪ an *all*-woman band

2 : including everything ▪ an *all*-encompassing philosophy ▪ Her *all*-consuming passion was music.

3 *US* **:** selected as the best at something (such as a sport) within an area or organization ▪ an *all*-league halfback

Al·lah /ˈɑːlə, *Brit* ˈælə/ *noun* [*singular*] — used as the name of God in Islam

all–Amer·i·can /ˌɑːləˈmerəkən/ *adj*

1 : having qualities that are thought to be typical of people in the U.S. or that are widely admired in the U.S. ▪ a wholesome *all-American* boy ▪ her *all-American* optimism

2 *sports* **a :** selected as one of the best in the U.S. in a particular sport ▪ an *all-American* football player ▪ He was *all-American* twice when he played college football. **b :** having only all-American players ▪ an *all-American* football team
3 : consisting entirely of Americans or of American elements ▪ The tennis tournament will have an *all-American* final. [=both players in the final are American]
– **all–American** *noun, pl* **-cans** [*count*] ▪ He was an *all-American* in football.

all–around /ˌɑːləˈraʊnd/ *adj, always used before a noun, US*
1 : relating to or involving many different things ▪ The computer has good *all-around* performance. ▪ There has been an *all-around* improvement in his work recently. **:** considered in a general way ▪ He is an *all-around* good guy. ▪ She is a teacher, writer, and *all-around* nice woman.
2 : skillful or useful in many ways ▪ She's the best *all-around* player on the team. ▪ a good *all-around* pickup truck ▪ The encyclopedia is an excellent *all-around* resource.

al·lay /əˈleɪ/ *verb* **-lays; -layed; -lay·ing** [+ *obj*] *formal* **:** to make (something) less severe or strong ▪ Managers tried to *allay* [=*calm, ease*] fears that some workers would lose their jobs. ▪ The new advertising campaign is an attempt to *allay* the public's concerns/worries about the safety of the company's products. ▪ *allay* suspicions

all but *adv* **:** very nearly **:** ALMOST ▪ Without you the job would have been *all but* impossible. ▪ We had *all but* given up hope.

all clear *noun*
the all clear **:** a signal telling you that a situation is no longer dangerous ▪ "How will we know when it's safe to leave?" "I'll give you *the all clear* by blowing a whistle." ▪ Doctors have given her *the all clear* [=have told her that she is healthy] and she should be back at work next week.

all–day /ˈɑlˈdeɪ/ *adj, always used before a noun* **:** lasting throughout the day ▪ an *all-day* trip/event

al·le·ga·tion /ˌælɪˈgeɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** [*count*] **:** a statement saying that someone has done something wrong or illegal ▪ The police are investigating *allegations* that the mayor has accepted bribes. ▪ The mayor denies the *allegations* (that have been made) against him. ▪ There have been *allegations* of fraud in the city government. ▪ You're making a serious *allegation*. Do you have any proof?

al·lege /əˈlɛʤ/ *verb* **-leg·es; -leged; -leg·ing** [+ *obj*] **:** to state without definite proof that someone has done something wrong or illegal ▪ *allege* a person's guilt ▪ He *alleged* that the mayor has accepted bribes. ▪ The mayor is *alleged* to have accepted bribes. ▪ *allege* a conspiracy ▪ She *alleged* misconduct. = She *alleged* that there had been misconduct. ▪ You *allege* that she stole a large quantity of money. Do you have any proof?

al·leged /əˈlɛʤd/ *adj, always used before a noun*
1 : accused of having done something wrong or illegal but not yet proven guilty ▪ The *alleged* thief was arrested.
2 : said to have happened but not yet proven ▪ He denied the *alleged* conspiracy. ▪ *alleged* abuse
– **al·leg·ed·ly** /əˈlɛʤədli/ *adv* ▪ She *allegedly* stole the money. = *Allegedly*, she stole the money.

al·le·giance /əˈliːʤəns/ *noun, pl* **-gianc·es** *formal* **:** loyalty to a person, country, group, etc. [*noncount*] I pledge *allegiance* to my country. [=I promise to be loyal to my country] ▪ He owes *allegiance* to them for all the help they have given him. [*count*] Both candidates are working hard to convince voters to switch *allegiances*.
the Pledge of Allegiance see ¹PLEDGE

al·le·go·ry /ˈælə˛gori, *Brit* ˈælәgri/ *noun, pl* **-ries :** a story in which the characters and events are symbols that stand for ideas about human life or for a political or historical situation [*count*] the long poem is an *allegory* of/about love and jealousy [*noncount*] a writer known for his use of *allegory*
– **al·le·gor·i·cal** /ˌælәˈgorɪkәł/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] ▪ an *allegorical* poem– **al·le·gor·i·cal·ly** /ˌælәˈgorɪkli/ *adv*

¹al·le·gro /əˈlɛgroʊ/ *adv, music* **:** in a quick and lively way ▪ a movement played *allegro*
– **allegro** *adj* ▪ an *allegro* movement

²allegro *noun, pl* **-gros** [*count*] **:** a piece of music that is played or performed in a quick and lively way ▪ The symphony's first movement is an *allegro*.

al·le·lu·ia /ˌælәˈluːjə/ *interj* **:** ¹HALLELUJAH
– **alleluia** *noun, pl* **-i·as** [*count*]

all–encompassing *adj* **:** including everything or everyone ▪ We're unlikely to find an *all-encompassing* solution.

Al·len wrench /ˈælәn-/ *noun, pl* **~ wrenches** [*count*] *US* **:** a small tool that is used to turn a special type of screw — called also (*Brit*) *Allen key*

al·ler·gen /ˈælәˌʤәn/ *noun, pl* **-gens** [*count*] *medical* **:** a substance that causes an allergy ▪ common *allergens*, such as pollen
– **al·ler·gen·ic** /ˌælәˈʤɛnɪk/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] ▪ a highly *allergenic* substance

al·ler·gic /əˈlәʤɪk/ *adj*
1 : of or relating to an allergy ▪ an *allergic* reaction/response/condition
2 [*more ~; most ~*] **:** having an allergy ▪ an *allergic* person— usually + *to* ▪ I'm *allergic to* cats/nuts. ▪ people who are highly *allergic to* shellfish — often used figuratively in informal contexts ▪ My brother is *allergic to* hard work. [=my brother does not like hard work; my brother is lazy]

al·ler·gist /ˈælәˌʤɪst/ *noun, pl* **-gists** [*count*] *medical* **:** a doctor who is an expert in the treatment of allergies

al·ler·gy /ˈælәˌʤi/ *noun, pl* **-gies :** a medical condition that causes someone to become sick after eating, touching, or breathing something that is harmless to most people [*noncount*] Many people have some form of *allergy*. [*count*] food *allergies*— often + *to* ▪ I have an *allergy to* strawberries. I get a rash if I eat just one.— sometimes used figuratively in informal contexts ▪ My brother has an *allergy to* hard work. [=my brother does not like hard work; my brother is lazy]

al·le·vi·ate /əˈliːviˌeɪt/ *verb* **-ates; -at·ed; -at·ing** [+ *obj*] **:** to reduce the pain or trouble of (something) **:** to make (something) less painful, difficult, or severe ▪ The doctor tried to *alleviate* [=*relieve*] her symptoms/suffering. ▪ finding ways to *alleviate* stress ▪ The new tunnel should *alleviate* [=*lessen, reduce*] traffic on the bridge. ▪ government programs that are intended to *alleviate* [=*reduce*] poverty
– **al·le·vi·a·tion** /əˌliːviˈeɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the *alleviation* of suffering/poverty

al·ley /ˈæli/ *noun, pl* **-leys** [*count*] **:** a narrow street or passage between buildings ▪ a dark *alley*— see also BLIND ALLEY, BOWLING ALLEY
up someone's alley *also* ***down someone's alley*** *chiefly US, informal* **:** suited to someone's tastes or abilities ▪ A job like that would be ***right up my alley***! [=a job like that would suit me very well] ▪ I love books, so volunteering at the library is *right up my alley*. [=(*Brit*) *up my street*]

al·ley·way /ˈæliˌweɪ/ *noun, pl* **-ways** [*count*] **:** a passage between buildings **:** ALLEY

all–fired /ˈɑːlˌfajәd/ *adj, always used before a noun, US, informal + somewhat old-fashioned* **:** extreme or excessive ▪ Why are you in such an *all-fired* hurry?
– **all–fired** *adv* ▪ I don't know why you're being so *all-fired* stubborn!

All Fools' Day *noun* [*singular*] **:** APRIL FOOLS' DAY

all fours *noun*
on all fours *of a person* **:** with the hands and knees on the ground ▪ The baby crawled away *on all fours*.

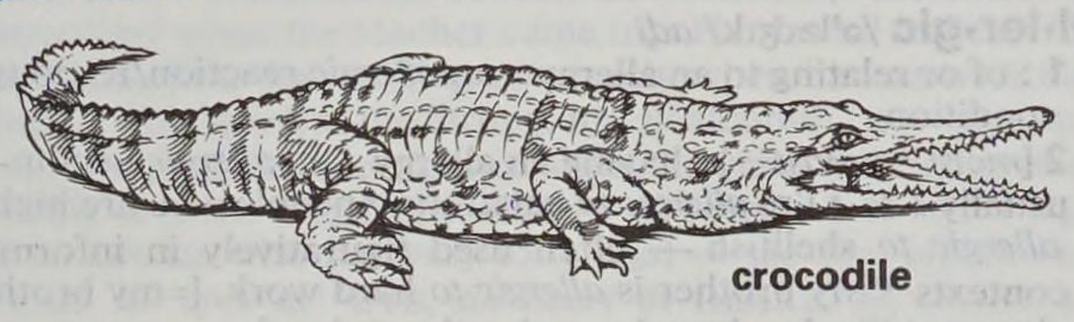
all get–out *noun, always used after an adjective*
as all get-out *US, informal* **:** very or extremely ▪ The café was (as) busy *as all get-out* [=was extremely busy] this afternoon.

al·li·ance /əˈlajәns/ *noun, pl* **-anc·es**
1 [*count*] **:** a union between people, groups, countries, etc. **:** a relationship in which people agree to work together ▪ We need to form/forge/encourage a closer *alliance* between government and industry. ▪ strengthen/weaken the *alliance* of western nations ▪ There has been a pattern of shifting *alliances* in the political world. ▪ The article condemns what some say is an ***unholy alliance*** between government and media.
2 [*noncount*] **:** the state of being joined in some activity or effort **:** the state of being allied ▪ two nations in close *alliance* (with each other) ▪ one nation working ***in alliance with*** another
3 [*count*] **:** a group of people, countries, etc., that are joined together in some activity or effort ▪ There is disagreement within the *alliance* about how to deal with this problem.

al·lied /əˈlaɪd, ˈæˌlaɪd/ *adj*
1 a : joined in a relationship in which people, groups, countries etc., agree to work together ▪ *allied* nations = nations that are *allied* to/with each other **b *Allied*** *always used before a noun* **:** of or relating to the nations that fought together against Germany in World War I and World War II ▪ *Allied* soldiers/troops/forces
2 *somewhat formal* **:** related or connected ▪ chemistry and *allied* subjects ▪ two families *allied* [=(more commonly) *joined*] by marriage

A

al•li•ga•tor /ˈælə,geɪtɚ/ *noun, pl* **-tors**
1 [*count*] : a large reptile that has a long body, thick skin, and sharp teeth, that lives in the tropical parts of the U.S. and China, and that is related to crocodiles
2 [*noncount*] : the skin of an alligator used for making shoes and other products — often used before another noun ▪ *alligator* shoes



crocodile



alligator

all–im•por•tant /ˌɑ:lɪmˈpoɚtn̩t/ *adj* : very important ▪ an *all-important* question — often used in a humorous or exaggerated way ▪ She paused to consider the *all-important* issue of which shoes to wear.

all–in /ˌɑ:lˈɪn/ *adj*
1 *informal* : very tired ▪ By the end of finals week, I was *all-in*. [=*exhausted*] — often written as two separate words ▪ You look *all in*.
2 *Brit* **a** : ALL-INCLUSIVE ▪ the *all-in* room rate **b** : allowing almost any technique or method ▪ *all-in* wrestling

all–in•clu•sive /ˌɑ:lɪnˈklu:sɪv/ *adj* : including everything; *especially* : sold for one price that includes charges and fees that are often added separately ▪ The resort is *all-inclusive* so you don't worry about money while you're there.

al•lit•er•a•tion /əˌlɪtəˈreɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the use of words that begin with the same sound near one another (as in *wild and woolly* or *a babbling brook*)
– **al•lit•er•a•tive** /əˈlɪtərətɪv/ *adj* ▪ an *alliterative* name like "Molly Mason"

all–night /ˈɑ:lˈnaɪt/ *adj, always used before a noun*
1 : open for business throughout the night ▪ *an all-night* diner
2 : lasting throughout the night ▪ an *all-night* party

all–night•er /ˈɑ:lˈnaɪtɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] *informal* : a night during which someone works on something instead of sleeping ▪ I have to finish this by morning, so I guess tonight will be another *all-nighter*. ▪ He ***pulled an all-nighter*** [=he stayed up all night] to study for the exam.

al•lo•cate /ˈælə,keɪt/ *verb* **-cates**; **-cat•ed**; **-cat•ing** [+ *obj*] : to divide and give out (something) for a special reason or to particular people, companies, etc. ▪ *allocate* funds among charities ▪ Money from the sale of the house was *allocated* to each of the children. ▪ We need to determine the best way to *allocate* our resources. ▪ Have enough funds been *allocated* to finance the project?
– **al•lo•ca•tion** /ˌæləˈkeɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** [*noncount*] the *allocation* of funds ▪ asset *allocation* [*count*] asset *allocations*

al•lot /əˈlɑ:t/ *verb* **-lots**; **-lot•ted**; **-lot•ting** [+ *obj*] : to give someone (an amount of something) to use or have ▪ Each speaker will be *allotted* 15 minutes. ▪ The newspaper will *allot* a full page to each of the three mayoral candidates.
– **allotted** *adj* ▪ Most of the students completed the exam in the *allotted* time.

al•lot•ment /əˈlɑ:tmənt/ *noun, pl* **-ments**
1 [*count*] : an amount of something given to someone to use or have ▪ He complained that the 15-minute time *allotment* was too short.
2 [*noncount*] : the act of allotting something ▪ The *allotment* of a full page in the newspaper to each candidate is more than fair.
3 [*count*] *Brit* : a small area of land that a person can rent to use as a garden ▪ fresh tomatoes from my *allotment*

all–out /ˈɑ:lˈaʊt/ *adj, always used before a noun*
1 : made or done with as much effort as possible ▪ an *all-out* attack/assault on poverty = an *all-out* effort to eliminate poverty — see also *go all out* at ¹GO
2 : fully developed ▪ an *all-out* [=*full-blown*] war

all•over /ˈɑ:lˌoʊvɚ/ *adj, always used before a noun* : covering the whole surface of something ▪ a rug with an *allover* pattern — see also *all over* at ²ALL

al•low /əˈlaʊ/ *verb* **-lows**; **-lowed**; **-low•ing** [+ *obj*]
1 a : to permit (something) : to regard or treat (something) as acceptable ▪ a religion that does not *allow* divorce ▪ They don't *allow* smoking in this hotel. ▪ I want to change my schedule, but my boss won't *allow* it. **b** : to permit (someone) to have or do something ▪ He *allowed* her to leave. [=he let her leave] ▪ My boss wouldn't *allow* me to change my schedule. ▪ They don't *allow* people to smoke in this hotel. ▪ He *allows* himself (to have) many luxuries. — used in the phrase ***allow me*** to make a polite offer to help someone ▪ *Allow me* to get/open the door for you. ▪ If you're going to remodel your kitchen, *allow me* to offer a few suggestions. **c** : to permit (someone) to go or come in, out, etc. ▪ Women were not *allowed* in/into the club. ▪ The hospital doesn't *allow* visitors after 8 p.m. ▪ Those children are too young to be *allowed* (to go) out at night.
2 a : to make it possible for someone or something to have or do something ▪ Her experience *allows* her to handle difficult situations easily. [=she can handle difficult situations easily because of her experience] ▪ Her schedule doesn't *allow* her any time to run errands. ▪ The system *allows* you to transfer data easily from one computer to another. **b** : to make it possible for something to happen ▪ Occasional gaps *allow* passage through the mountains. ▪ a password that *allows* access to the system ▪ The system *allows* the easy transfer of data from one computer to another. = The system *allows* data to be transferred easily from one computer to another. **c** : to fail to prevent something or someone from being, becoming, or doing something ▪ They *allowed* the garden to become overgrown with weeds. ▪ These conditions should never have been *allowed* to develop. ▪ I was surprised to see that she had *allowed* herself to become so fat. [=that she had become so fat]
3 : to include (a quantity of time, money, etc.) as an appropriate amount ▪ When you're planning your day you should *allow* an hour for lunch. ▪ Their parents *allowed* five dollars for each child as spending money. ▪ We need to *allow* (ourselves) enough time to get the job done properly.
4 a : to accept (something) ▪ The judge decided to *allow* the evidence. **b** : to admit (something) ▪ His job played a more important part in his life than his biographer *allows*. — usually + *that* or (*US, informal*) *as how* ▪ She *allowed that* the work was hard. = She *allowed as how* the work was hard. [=she admitted that the work was hard]
5 *sports* : to let an opposing team or player have or score (a goal, a hit, etc.) ▪ The pitcher *allowed* five hits and three runs in the first two innings. ▪ *allow* a goal ▪ The defense has not *allowed* a touchdown in the past three games.

allow for [*phrasal verb*] ***allow for (something)*** **1 a** : to think about or plan for (something that will or might happen in the future) ▪ When purchasing property, the company should *allow for* possible future growth/expansion. **b** : to consider (something) when you make a calculation ▪ The total distance, *allowing for* detours, is about 10 miles. ▪ If you *allow for* inflation, he's actually earning less money now than he was 10 years ago. [=the value of the money he earns now is less than that of the money he earned 10 years ago because of inflation] **2** : to make (something) possible ▪ The design of the system *allows for* [=*allows, permits*] easy upgrades.

allow of [*phrasal verb*] ***allow of (something)*** *formal* : to make (something) possible ▪ The evidence *allows of* [=*allows, permits*] two possible interpretations.

– **al•low•able** /əˈlawəbəl/ *adj* ▪ *allowable* behavior

al•low•ance /əˈlawəns/ *noun, pl* **-anc•es**
1 [*count*] **a** : an amount of money that is given to someone regularly or for a specific purpose ▪ a monthly *allowance* for household expenses ▪ a clothing *allowance* **b** *chiefly US* : a small amount of money that is regularly given to children by their parents ▪ Each of their children gets a weekly *allowance* of five dollars.
2 [*count*] **a** : an amount of something (such as time) that is allowed or available ▪ The schedule provides a generous *allowance* of time for sightseeing. [=provides a generous amount of time for sightseeing] **b** : an amount that is regarded as acceptable or desirable ▪ the recommended daily *allowance* of vitamin C **c** : an amount that is subtracted from the price of something ▪ When we bought our new car

we got a trade-in *allowance* of $2,000 on our old car. [=the price of our new car was reduced by $2,000 because we traded in our old car] **d** *Brit* : an amount of your earnings that you do not have to pay taxes on ▪ the ***tax allowance*** for married couples

3 a [*noncount*] : the act of thinking about or including something when you make a plan, calculation, etc. ▪ When you're comparing costs from different decades, you need to ***make allowance for*** inflation. [=you need to allow for inflation] ▪ His theory ***makes no allowance for*** [=does not allow for] the possibility that the disease may be genetic. **b** : the act of regarding bad behavior or a mistake as less serious or bad because of some special situation or condition [*noncount*] She performed poorly, but we should ***make some allowance for*** her inexperience. = Some ***allowance should be made for*** her inexperience. [=because she is inexperienced, we should not blame her too much for performing poorly] [*count*] They performed poorly, but *allowances should be made* for their inexperience.

4 [*noncount*] *formal* : the act of allowing something ▪ The lawyer protested the judge's *allowance* of the evidence.

al•loy /ˈæˌlɔɪ/ *noun, pl* **-loys** : a metal made by melting and mixing two or more metals or a metal and another material together [*count*] testing the properties of various *alloys* [*noncount*] a part made of aluminum *alloy*

– al•loy /əˈlɔɪ/ *verb* **-loys**; **-loyed**; **-loy•ing** [+ *obj*] ▪ Stainless steel is made by *alloying* steel with chromium.

all–pow•er•ful /ˈɑːlˈpawɚfəl/ *adj* : having complete power : able to do anything ▪ She believes in an *all-powerful* God. — often used in an exaggerated way to describe people or organizations that are very powerful ▪ the *all-powerful* committee ▪ an *all-powerful* leader

all–pur•pose /ˈɑːlˈpɚpəs/ *adj, always used before a noun* : suitable for many uses ▪ an *all-purpose* tool/knife/cleanser ▪ (*US*) *all-purpose* flour — compare GENERAL-PURPOSE

¹all right *adv*

1 : fairly well : well enough ▪ She does *all right* in school. ▪ The engine was sputtering when I started it, but it's running/working *all right* now. ▪ "How's your father?" "He was pretty sick, but he's doing *all right* now."

2 : beyond doubt : CERTAINLY — used to stress that a preceding statement is true or accurate ▪ "Is this the one you wanted?" "Yes, that's it *all right*." [=that is indeed the one I wanted] ▪ "He seems pretty clever to me." "Oh, he's clever *all right*. A little *too* clever, if you ask me."

3 a — used to ask for or express agreement, acceptance, or understanding ▪ I'll meet you at 10 o'clock, *all right*? ▪ *All right*, I'll meet you at 10 o'clock. ▪ "I have to leave a little early today, *all right*?" "*All right*, that's fine." — often used in a way that shows annoyance or reluctance ▪ "Can we please go now?" "Oh, *all right*, if you insist." ▪ "Hurry up!" "*All right, all right*, I'm coming!" = "***All right already***, I'm coming!" **b** *chiefly US* — used to express pleasure or excitement ▪ "They won!" "*All right*! That's great!" **c** — used for emphasis at the beginning of a statement ▪ *All right*, let's suppose your theory is correct. What then? ▪ *All right* everyone, let's get started.

²all right *adj, not used before a noun except in sense 4*

1 : fairly good : SATISFACTORY ▪ The quality of his work is *all right* but not outstanding. ▪ Her first movie was pretty bad but her second one was *all right*.

2 a : acceptable or agreeable ▪ Whatever you decide to do is *all right* (with/by me). [=I will accept whatever you want to do] ▪ Is it *all right* to leave early? **b** : suitable or appropriate ▪ Is this movie *all right* for children?

3 a : not ill, hurt, unhappy, etc. ▪ He was very sick but now he's *all right* again. ▪ "Are you hurt?" "No, I'm *all right*." ▪ She was upset when her boyfriend left, but she's *all right* now. **b** : not marked by problems, danger, etc. — used to tell someone not to be worried or concerned ▪ Don't worry. Everything will be *all right*. ▪ "I'm so sorry that I'm late." "It's/That's *all right*. We still have plenty of time."

4 *informal* : likable, good, or honest ▪ He's an *all right* guy. ▪ I had my doubts about him at first, but I trust him now. He's *all right*.

a bit of all right see ¹BIT

all–round /ˈɑːlˈraʊnd/ *adj, always used before a noun, chiefly Brit* : ALL-AROUND ▪ a good *all-round* effort/athlete

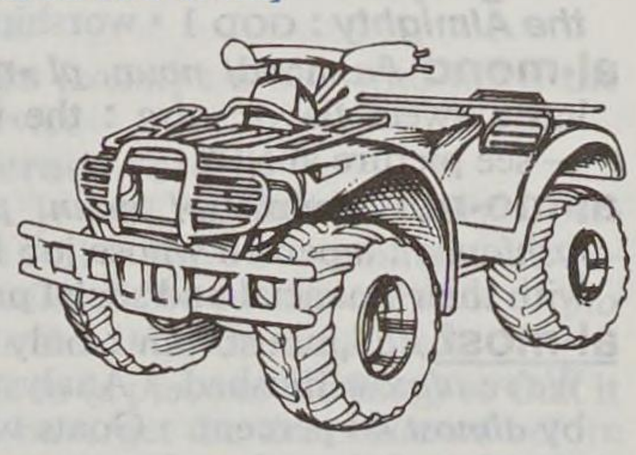
all–singing, all–dancing *adj, always used before a noun, Brit, informal + humorous* — used in an exaggerated way to suggest that something (such as a machine that has many features) is like a large and expensive show that has many singing and dancing performers ▪ an *all-singing, all-dancing* stereo system

all•spice /ˈɑːlˌspaɪs/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a spice that is made from the berries of a tree and that is often used in baking

all–star /ˈɑːlˌstɑɚ/ *adj, always used before a noun* : including mostly or only performers who are famous or very skillful ▪ an *all-star* baseball team ▪ The movie boasts an *all-star* cast.

– all–star *noun, pl* **-stars** [*count*] ▪ He was selected as an *all-star*. [=a member of an all-star team]

all–terrain vehicle *noun, pl* ~ **-hicles** [*count*] : a small open vehicle with three or four large wheels that is used to drive over very rough ground — called also *ATV*



all-terrain vehicle

all–time /ˈɑːlˌtaɪm/ *adj, always used before a noun* : more than all others have ever been ▪ It's my *all-time* favorite movie. ▪ The price of gasoline has hit an *all-time* high. [=the price is higher than it has ever been]

al•lude /əˈluːd/ *verb* **-ludes**; **-lud•ed**; **-lud•ing**

allude to [*phrasal verb*] ***allude to (something or someone)*** : to speak of or mention (something or someone) in an indirect way ▪ I'm interested in hearing more about the technology you *alluded to* a minute ago. ▪ She *alluded to* her first marriage/husband.

Do not confuse *allude* with *elude*.

al•lure /əˈluɚ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : power to attract : a quality that attracts people ▪ These rare books hold special *allure* for collectors. — often + *of* ▪ the *allure of* fame

al•lur•ing /əˈlurɪŋ/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : very attractive : having a quality that attracts people ▪ an *alluring* offer/smile/aroma

al•lu•sion /əˈluːʒən/ *noun, pl* **-sions** : a statement that refers to something without mentioning it directly [*count*] The lyrics contain biblical *allusions*. — often + *to* ▪ She made an *allusion to* her first marriage, but said nothing more about it. [*noncount*] She made *allusion to* her first marriage.

Do not confuse *allusion* with *illusion*.

– al•lu•sive /əˈluːsɪv/ *adj* ▪ *allusive* lyrics

al•lu•vi•al /əˈluːvijəl/ *adj, geology* : made up of or found in the materials that are left by the water of rivers, floods, etc. ▪ an *alluvial* plain/deposit ▪ *alluvial* soil/diamonds

all–wheel drive *noun* [*noncount*] : a system that applies engine power directly to all four wheels of a vehicle together or separately ▪ a car with *all-wheel drive*

¹al•ly /ˈæˌlaɪ/ *noun, pl* **-lies** [*count*]

1 a : a country that supports and helps another country in a war ▪ the nation's closest *ally* **b** ***the Allies*** : the nations that fought together against Germany in World War I or World War II ▪ fought with *the Allies* in World War II

2 : a person or group that gives help to another person or group ▪ She's counting on her *allies* in the state legislature. ▪ a powerful *ally* ▪ The teacher's union has found an unlikely *ally* in the company. [=the company supports the position that the union has taken and this was not expected]

²al•ly /əˈlaɪ/ *verb* **-lies**; **-lied**; **-ly•ing** : to join (yourself) with another person, group, etc., in order to get or give support — often + *with* or *to* [+ *obj*] She's *allied* herself *with* the moderates on this issue. ▪ countries *allying* themselves *with* the EU ▪ He'll even admit that he's hoping to *ally* himself *to* a wealthy family by marriage. [*no obj*] They've *allied with* their former enemies. — see also ALLIED

al•ma ma•ter /ˌælməˈmɑːtɚ/ *noun, pl* ~ **-ters** [*count*] : the school, college, or university that someone attended ▪ I visited my old *alma mater* last week.

al•ma•nac /ˈɑːlməˌnæk/ *noun, pl* **-nacs** [*count*]

1 : a book published every year that contains facts about the movements of the sun and moon, changes in the tides, and information of general interest

2 : a book published every year that contains detailed information on a special subject ▪ an *almanac* of town news ▪ a hunter's *almanac*

al•mighty /ɑlˈmaɪti/ *adj*

1 *or* ***Al•mighty*** : having complete power ▪ *Almighty* God = God *Almighty*

2 *always used before a noun* : having a great deal of power or

A

importance ✧ This sense of *almighty* is often used to suggest that something has too much power over people. ▪ All he cares about is the *almighty* dollar. [=all he cares about is money]

3 *always used before a noun* : very great or loud ▪ The dishes fell down with an *almighty* crash. [=a mighty crash]

Almighty *noun*

the Almighty : GOD 1 ▪ worshipping *the Almighty*

al•mond /ˈɑːmənd/ *noun, pl* **-monds** [*count*] : a nut that has a sweet flavor; *also* : the tree that produces almonds — see picture at NUT

al•mo•ner /ˈælmənɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ners** [*count*] *Brit, old-fashioned* : a person whose job is to help people in hospitals with their financial and social problems

al•most /ˈɑːlˌmoʊst/ *adv* : only a little less than : NEARLY ▪ We're *almost* finished. ▪ Analysts predict that rates will rise by *almost* 40 percent. ▪ Goats will eat *almost* anything. ▪ He mentioned the prize *almost* as an afterthought. [=mentioned it in a way that made it seem like an afterthought] ▪ She's *almost* always late. ▪ in *almost* all cases = in *almost* every case ▪ I have ***almost no*** [=*hardly any*] money. ▪ She ***almost never*** [=*hardly ever*] misses a game. ▪ There's ***almost nothing*** [=*hardly anything*] in the fridge.

alms /ˈɑːmz/ *noun* [*plural*] *old-fashioned* : money, clothes, food, and other things given to poor people

alms•house /ˈɑːmzˌhaʊs/ *noun, pl* **-hous•es** [*count*] *in the past* : a building in which poor people were allowed to live for free

al•oe /ˈæloʊ/ *noun, pl* **-oes** [*count*] : a tropical plant that has heavy leaves which produce a thick liquid used in medicines, cosmetics, etc.

aloe vera /ˈæloʊˈverə/ *noun, pl* ~ **veras** [*noncount*] : a thick liquid that is produced by a kind of aloe plant and used in medicines, cosmetics, etc. ▪ a skin cream that contains *aloe vera*; *also* [*count*] : the plant that produces this liquid

aloft /əˈlɑːft/ *adv* : in the air ▪ banners carried *aloft* ▪ The balloon stayed *aloft* for days.

alo•ha /əˈloʊˌhɑː/ *interj* — used in Hawaii to say hello or goodbye

[1]alone /əˈloʊn/ *adj, not used before a noun*

1 a : without anyone or anything else : not involving or including anyone or anything else : separate from other people or things ▪ I was all *alone* [=*by myself*] in the office yesterday. ▪ This wine goes well with food, but is also very good *alone*. ▪ I got him *alone* and asked him what had really happened. ▪ She lived *alone* for many years. ▪ She doesn't mind being *alone* because she never feels lonely/lonesome. ▪ He was *alone* with his thoughts. **b** : without people that you know or that usually are with you ▪ This is the first time the couple has been out *alone* together since the birth of their child. [=the first time they have gone somewhere without their child] ▪ He traveled *alone* [=*by himself*] to visit his grandparents when he was only seven. ▪ She was nervous about being (all) *alone* in the city when she started her new job. ✧ If you are ***not alone*** when you do something, you are not the only person who is doing it. ▪ She's worried about losing her job, and she's *not alone*. [=other people are also worried about losing their jobs] ▪ He was *not alone* in calling for reform. Many people were demanding changes.

2 [*more* ~; *most* ~] : feeling unhappy because of being separated from other people ▪ He felt very *alone* when he went away to school.

[2]alone *adv*

1 : without help from anyone or anything else ▪ She raised six children *alone*. [=*on her own, by herself*] ▪ The police believe the criminal acted *alone*. ▪ Medication *alone* [=*by itself*] won't relieve the symptoms entirely.

2 : without another — used for emphasis ▪ The proof rests on one witness's statement *alone*. ▪ You *alone* [=only you] can decide what needs to be done. [=you are the only one who can decide] ▪ You *alone* are responsible. = The responsibility is yours *alone*. ▪ The blame is mine and mine *alone*. [=I am the only one who should be blamed]

3 : without including or needing anything more ▪ You can't rely on your looks *alone* [=you can't rely just on your looks]; you'll need to work very hard. ▪ The price *alone* is enough to discourage people. ▪ The special effects *alone* make the movie worth seeing.

go it alone : to do something by yourself ▪ If no one's willing to help me, I guess I'll just have to *go it alone*.

leave (someone or something) alone see [1]LEAVE

leave well enough alone see [1]LEAVE

let alone see [1]LET

stand alone see [1]STAND

[1]along /əˈlɑːŋ/ *prep*

1 : in a line matching the length or direction of (something) ▪ We walked *along* the beach. ▪ We walked *along* (the side of) the road. ▪ The chairs were lined up *along* the wall. ▪ The ship sailed *along* the coast.

2 : at a point on (something) ▪ They have a house *along* [=*alongside*] the river. ▪ We drove to Boston and we stopped ***along the way*** for lunch.

[2]along *adv*

1 : in a forward direction ▪ We walked *along* beside the road. ▪ I was just walking *along*, minding my own business. ▪ The police told the people in the crowd to move *along*. ▪ We looked at the houses as we drove *along*. — often used figuratively ▪ Is there anything we can do to hurry this process *along*? [=to make this process go faster] ▪ He was rushing *along* through the speech. ▪ Her career was helped *along* by her wealthy uncle.

2 — used to say that someone or something is brought or taken with you when you go somewhere ▪ He brought his son *along* [=brought his son with him] when he went to the bank. ▪ We brought/took an extra battery *along* just in case we needed it. — often + *with* ▪ He brought his son *along with* him. ▪ The scenery was beautiful. I was glad that we had a camera *along with* us. [=I was glad that we brought a camera]

3 : at or to an advanced point ▪ Plans for a new stadium are already pretty far *along*. ▪ The morning was well *along* when we arrived. [=it was late in the morning when we arrived] ▪ people who are ***well/far along in years*** [=people who are old]

4 : at a particular place : here or there ▪ I'll be *along* [=I'll be there] to see him in a few minutes. ▪ We missed the first bus, but another one should be *along* [=should be here] soon.

5 : from one person to another ▪ Word was passed *along* that the attack was coming.

all along : during the entire time since something began ▪ I knew the truth *all along*. ▪ The police knew *all along* who was guilty.

along about *US, informal* : at a time near (a specified time) : ABOUT, AROUND ▪ He arrived in the city *along about* July 17. ▪ Our flight should be arriving *along about* 8:00.

along with : in addition to (something or someone) ▪ a plane carrying heavy radar equipment *along with* full fuel tanks : together with (something or someone) ▪ A bill came *along with* the merchandise. ▪ All my cousins were there *along with* my aunts and uncles. ▪ He worked *along with* several colleagues to finish on time.

[1]along•side /əˈlɑːŋˈsaɪd/ *adv* : along or close at the side ▪ We waited for the other boat to come *alongside*.

alongside of *chiefly US, informal* : next to or together with (someone or something) : ALONGSIDE ▪ The police car pulled up *alongside of* our car. ▪ children working *alongside of* their parents

[2]alongside *prep*

1 : next to (someone or something) ▪ The children work *alongside* their parents in the field.

2 : along the side of (something) ▪ Bring the boat *alongside* the dock.

3 : at the same time as (something) : together with (something) ▪ one theory taught *alongside* the other ▪ The town grew up *alongside* the college.

aloof /əˈluːf/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

1 : not involved with or friendly toward other people ▪ She remained *aloof* [=*distant*] despite their efforts to make friends. ▪ He held himself *aloof* from his coworkers. [=he was not warm or friendly toward them]

2 : not involved in or influenced by something ▪ They tried to keep/remain/stand *aloof* from the politics of the day.

– **aloof•ness** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ She's been criticized for *aloofness* but she's really just very shy.

aloud /əˈlaʊd/ *adv* : in a way that can be clearly heard ▪ read *aloud* : in a voice that can be heard ▪ She wondered *aloud* [=*out loud*] where they'd gone.

al•paca /ælˈpækə/ *noun, pl* **-pac•as**

1 [*count*] : a South American animal that is related to the llama and has long woolly hair — see picture at LLAMA

2 [*noncount*] : wool of the alpaca or a cloth made of it

[1]al•pha /ˈælfə/ *noun, pl* **-phas** [*count*] : the first letter of the Greek alphabet — A or α

[2]alpha *adj, always used before a noun*

1 : having the most power in a group of animals or people ▪ a fight in the pack between a young wolf and the ***alpha male***

[=the dominant male] ▪ the *alpha male/female* on the committee [=the most powerful man/woman on the committee]
2 — used to describe the first version of a product that is being developed and tested ▪ the *alpha* version of the software ▪ *alpha* testing — compare BETA

alpha and omega *noun*
the alpha and omega **:** the most important part of something ▪ Money is *the alpha and omega* of his existence. [=money is the only thing that matters to him]

al•pha•bet /'ælfə,bɛt/ *noun, pl* **-bets** [*count*] **:** the letters of a language arranged in their usual order ▪ The Roman *alphabet* begins with "A" and ends with "Z."

al•pha•bet•i•cal /,ælfə'bɛtɪkəl/ *also* **al•pha•bet•ic** /,ælfə'bɛtɪk/ *adj* **:** arranged in the order of the letters of the alphabet ▪ an *alphabetical* list ▪ The words in the dictionary are listed/shown ***in alphabetical order***.
– al•pha•bet•i•cal•ly /,ælfə'bɛtɪkli/ *adv* ▪ The students are listed *alphabetically* by last name.

al•pha•bet•ize *also Brit* **al•pha•bet•ise** /'ælfəbə,taɪz/ *verb* **-iz•es; -ized; -iz•ing** [+ *obj*] **:** to arrange (items) in alphabetical order ▪ She *alphabetized* the books. [=put the books in order so that books with titles beginning with "A" came first, "B" second, etc.] ▪ *alphabetize* the words on/in the list
– al•pha•bet•i•za•tion *also Brit* **al•pha•bet•i•sa•tion** /,ælfə,bɛtə'zeɪʃən, *Brit* ,ælfə,bɛ,taɪ'zeɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*]

alphabet soup *noun* [*noncount*] **:** a type of soup for children with small noodles that are shaped like letters of the alphabet ▪ a bowl of *alphabet soup* — often used figuratively to describe a confusing group of letters (such as abbreviations) that are used to refer to various organizations, items, etc. ▪ the *alphabet soup* of government agencies

al•pha•nu•mer•ic /,ælfənu'merɪk, *Brit* ,ælfənjʊ'mɛrɪk/ *adj* **:** having or using letters and numbers ▪ an *alphanumeric* system/keyboard
– al•pha•nu•mer•i•cal•ly /,ælfənu'merɪkli, *Brit* ,ælfənjʊ'mɛrɪkli/ *adv*

al•pine /'æl,paɪn/ *adj*
1 : of or existing in high mountains and especially the Alps ▪ an *alpine* meadow/lake ▪ *alpine* flowers
2 : done in high mountains ▪ *alpine* skiing/sports

al•ready /ɑ:l'rɛdi/ *adv*
1 : before this time : before now ▪ They've *already* agreed to come. ▪ I've *already* told him the news. = (*US, informal*) I *already* told him the news. **:** before that time ▪ I'd *already* left by the time you called. ▪ He acted as if he didn't *already* know. ▪ Flight 102 will *already* have taken off by the time Flight 101 lands.
2 : so soon : so early ▪ Have they arrived *already*?! I'm still not dressed! ▪ Do you have to go *already*? ▪ Is it *already* midnight? = Is it midnight *already*?
3 — used to describe a situation that exists now and that will continue to exist ▪ The book is *already* available in Britain and should be in bookstores here next month. ▪ The exhibit has *already* caused quite a stir.
4 *US, informal* — used to express impatience or annoyance ▪ Answer the question, *already*! ▪ Enough, *already*! ▪ All right *already*!

al•right /,ɑ:l'raɪt/ *adv or adj* **:** ALL RIGHT

> ***usage*** The spelling *alright* is less common than *all right* and is regarded by some people as an error. It occurs mainly in informal writing.

Al•sa•tian /æl'seɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tians** [*count*] *Brit* **:** GERMAN SHEPHERD

al•so /'ɑ:l,soʊ/ *adv*
1 : in addition ▪ She's a talented singer and *also* a fine actress. ▪ Thomas Edison is best known for inventing the lightbulb, but he *also* invented the phonograph. ▪ I don't think we should go out. Not only is it late, but it's *also* snowing.
2 : in a similar way ▪ He saw something and she *also* saw it. [=she saw it too] ▪ "I grew up in North Dakota." "Really? I'm *also* from North Dakota." [=I'm from North Dakota too] ▪ My neighbors were *also* at the show that night.

al•so–ran /'ɑ:l,soʊ,ræn/ *noun, pl* **-rans** [*count*] **:** a person who has taken part in an election or contest and did not win ▪ He was an *also-ran* in last year's mayoral race.

al•tar /'ɑ:ltɚ/ *noun, pl* **-tars** [*count*]
1 : a raised place on which sacrifices and gifts are offered in some religions — sometimes used figuratively ▪ She sacrificed honesty ***on the altar of success***. [=she chose to be dishonest in order to achieve success]
2 : a platform or table used as a center of worship in Christian ceremonies and services
led to the altar ✧ If you are *led to the altar*, you get married. ▪ They started a romance that eventually *led* (them) *to the altar*.
left at the altar ✧ If you are *left at the altar*, you do not get married because the person you were going to marry has decided against it at the last moment. ▪ Her fiancé *left her at the altar*.

altar boy *noun, pl* **~ boys** [*count*] **:** a boy who helps the priest during a Catholic service

al•ter /'ɑ:ltɚ/ *verb* **-ters; -tered; -ter•ing**
1 : to change (something) [+ *obj*] Alcohol can *alter* a person's mood. ▪ He *altered* his will to leave everything to his sister. ▪ This one small event *altered* the course of history. [*no obj*] The place has *altered* in the 10 years since I left.
2 [+ *obj*] **:** to make a change to (a piece of clothing) so that it will fit better ▪ I'll need to have/get the dress *altered* before the wedding.
3 [+ *obj*] *US* **:** to remove the sex organs of (an animal) so that the animal is unable to reproduce ▪ They had the puppies *altered* [=*fixed*] before they were sold.
– altered *adj* ▪ Later, we see this character again in a slightly *altered* form. ▪ an *altered* state of consciousness

al•ter•a•tion /,ɑ:ltə'reɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions :** the act, process, or result of changing or altering something [*noncount*] the *alteration* of the pattern ▪ They did a good job on the dress *alteration*. [*count*] The addition of a glossary is the only significant *alteration* [=*change, modification*] to the book. ▪ He made *alterations* in/to his will.

al•ter•ca•tion /,ɑ:ltə'keɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** [*count*] *formal* **:** a noisy or angry argument ▪ She got into several *altercations* with the coach this season.

alter ego *noun, pl* **~ egos** [*count*]
1 : a different version of yourself ✧ A character in a book or film is sometimes viewed as an author's *alter ego*. A role that an actor often plays is sometimes described as the actor's *alter ego*.
2 : a close friend who thinks or feels similarly to the way you think or feel ▪ a trusted adviser who is the President's *alter ego*

[1]al•ter•nate /'ɑ:ltɚ,neɪt/ *verb* **-nates; -nat•ed; -nat•ing :** to place or do (different things) so that one follows the other in a repeated series [+ *obj*] To make the appetizer, you should *alternate* layers of tomatoes and cheese. [=you should place a layer of tomatoes, then a layer of cheese, then a layer of tomatoes, etc.] ▪ The poem/poet *alternates* fear and hope. — often + *with* ▪ The necklace is made by *alternating* glass beads *with* shells. ▪ The poem/poet *alternates* fear and hope *with* each other. = The poem/poet *alternates* fear *with* hope. [*no obj*] The light and dark woods *alternate* to form an elegant pattern around the window. — often + *with* ▪ Light woods *alternate with* dark woods. — often + *between* ▪ The poem *alternates between* fear and hope. ▪ He *alternates between* riding his bike and taking the bus to work.
– alternating *adj* ▪ To make the appetizer, you should use *alternating* layers of tomatoes and cheese. ▪ The shirt has *alternating* red and yellow stripes. **– al•ter•na•tion** /,ɑ:ltɚ'neɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** [*count, noncount*]

[2]al•ter•nate /'ɑ:ltɚnət, *Brit* ,ɔ:l'tɚ:nət/ *adj*
1 : occurring in or forming a repeated series ▪ *alternate* sunshine and rain ▪ *Alternate* shades of wood formed a pattern around the window.
2 — used to describe something that happens one time, does not happen the next time, happens again, etc. ▪ The fair is held on *alternate* years. [=the fair is held every other/second year; the fair is held one year, not held the next year, held the following year, and so on] ▪ She picks the children up from school on *alternate* days. [=(for example) she picks up the children on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday]
3 *chiefly US* **:** other than the usual **:** ALTERNATIVE ▪ We took an *alternate* route because of the traffic. ▪ Due to an emergency, the plane landed at an *alternate* airport.
– al•ter•nate•ly *adv* ▪ The poem is *alternately* fearful and hopeful.

[3]al•ter•nate /'ɑ:ltɚnət, *Brit* ,ɔ:l'tɚ:nət/ *noun, pl* **-nates** [*count*] *US* **:** someone who is chosen to take another person's place if that person is not able to be present or to do a required job ▪ The town has elected five councilors and two *alternates*. ▪ an *alternate* juror

alternating current *noun* [*noncount*] **:** an electric current that changes its direction very frequently at regular intervals — abbr. *AC*; compare DIRECT CURRENT

A

[1]al•ter•na•tive /ɑl'tənətɪv/ *adj*
1 *always used before a noun* : offering or expressing a choice ▪ We have *alternative* [=*other*] plans in case the weather is bad. ▪ an *alternative* explanation ▪ We took an *alternative* route [=a different route] to avoid the traffic. ▪ Scientists are developing an *alternative* approach to treating the disease.
2 : not usual or traditional ▪ *alternative* rock music ▪ He developed an *alternative* design for the new engine. ▪ ***alternative medicine*** [=methods of healing or treating disease that are different from the usual methods taught in Western medical schools] — often used to describe something that is more natural or that causes less pollution than the usual product, method, etc. ▪ *alternative* energy/fuel
3 : existing or functioning outside of the established society ▪ an *alternative* newspaper ▪ *alternative* lifestyles
– **al•ter•na•tive•ly** *adv* ▪ We could meet at the library or, *alternatively*, we could all meet at my house.

[2]alternative *noun, pl* **-tives** [*count*] : something that can be chosen instead of something else : a choice or option ▪ We decided to leave since our only other *alternative* was to wait in the rain. ▪ They left me no *alternative* but to call the police. [=I had to call the police] ▪ I was offered no *alternative*. ▪ The menu offered several vegetarian *alternatives*. — often + *to* ▪ We've been looking for *alternatives to* the usual treatment, but it seems there are few options.

al•ter•na•tor /'ɑ:ltə,neɪtə/ *noun, pl* **-tors** [*count*] : a device that produces electricity (as in the engine of a vehicle) : a generator that produces alternating current — see picture at ENGINE

al•though /ɑl'ðoʊ/ *conj*
1 : despite the fact that : THOUGH — used to introduce a fact that makes another fact unusual or surprising ▪ *Although* [=*while*, *even though*] he was hungry, he could not eat. ▪ *Although* we rarely see each other, we're still very good friends. = We're still very good friends *although* we rarely see each other. ▪ *Although* [=*while*] I'd love to have dinner with you tonight, I already have plans. ▪ It feels as if I've known you forever *although* [=*even though*] we've only known each other for a day. ▪ He's the basketball team's best player *although* he's the shortest one on the team. ▪ *Although* (it is) small, the apartment is very expensive.
2 : BUT, HOWEVER, THOUGH — used when making a statement that differs from or contrasts with a statement you have just made ▪ I don't believe we've met before, *although* I must say you do look very familiar. ▪ I think his name is John, *although* I'm not completely sure about that. ▪ I'd love to have dinner with you, *although* I can't. ▪ The book had a good, *although* not great, plot.

al•tim•e•ter /æl'tɪmətɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ters** [*count*] : an instrument used for measuring the altitude of something (such as an airplane or a mountain)

al•ti•tude /'æltə,tu:d, *Brit* 'æltə,tju:d/ *noun, pl* **-tudes** : the height of something (such as an airplane) above the level of the sea [*count*] We're now flying at an *altitude* [=*height*] of 10,000 feet. ▪ the air temperature at different *altitudes* ▪ Some visitors find it difficult to adjust to the city's high *altitude*. ▪ plants found at higher/lower *altitudes* [=*elevations*] [*noncount*] The plane lost/gained *altitude* rapidly. ▪ flying at low/high *altitude* ▪ She trained for the race ***at altitude***. [=at a high altitude, where the air is thin]

[1]al•to /'æltoʊ/ *noun, pl* **-tos** [*count*] *music* : a singing voice that is lower than the voice of a soprano and higher than the voice of a tenor; *also* : a singer having such a voice ▪ She sang in her school choir as an *alto*. — compare BASS, SOPRANO, TENOR

[2]alto *adj, always used before a noun* : having a range that is lower than a soprano and higher than a tenor ▪ an *alto* voice ▪ He plays the *alto* sax/saxophone.

[1]al•to•geth•er /,ɑ:ltə'gɛðɚ/ *adv*
1 : completely and fully : TOTALLY, ENTIRELY ▪ They had an *altogether* new idea. ▪ It stopped raining *altogether*. ▪ If we don't do something now, the forests may disappear *altogether*. ▪ It's best to avoid the situation *altogether*. ▪ That's an *altogether* different question. = That's a different question *altogether*. — often used with *not* ▪ It is *not altogether* clear why she left. ▪ He *didn't altogether* believe her story. — often used for emphasis before another adverb ▪ This is an *altogether* more sensible solution. ▪ I've said *altogether* [=*entirely*] too much on the subject already.
2 : with everything added together : when everything is added up ▪ They spent a thousand dollars *altogether*. [=*in all*] ▪ *Altogether* [=*all told*], we sold nearly 500 candy bars.
3 : in a general way : when everything is considered ▪ *Altogether* [=*generally, on the whole, all in all*] I'd say this was our best vacation ever. ▪ *Altogether*, their efforts were successful.

> ***usage*** Do not confuse the single word *altogether* with the two-word phrase *all together*. ▪ We were *all together* [=all in a group, all with each other] for the whole day. ▪ I tried to hold it *all together* with glue, but the pieces fell apart. ▪ The detective put it *all together* [=figured out how the pieces of information related to each other] and solved the crime. ▪ *All together* [=all at the same time] now, everybody, let's sing!

[2]altogether *noun*
in the altogether *informal + old-fashioned* : not wearing any clothes ▪ posing *in the altogether* [=*nude, in the nude*]

al•tru•ism /'æltru:,ɪzəm/ *noun* [*noncount*] : feelings and behavior that show a desire to help other people and a lack of selfishness ▪ charitable acts motivated purely by *altruism* ▪ In one final act of *altruism*, she donated almost all of her money to the hospital.
– **al•tru•is•tic** /,æltru:'ɪstɪk/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ His motives/reasons for helping the poor were not completely *altruistic*. [=he wanted to help himself in some way by helping the poor] ▪ *altruistic* acts – **al•tru•is•tic•al•ly** /,æltru:'ɪstɪkli/ *adv*

alum /ə'lʌm/ *noun, pl* **alums** [*count*] *US, informal* : someone who attended or graduated from a particular school, college, or university : ALUMNUS, ALUMNA ▪ a Harvard *alum*

alu•mi•num (*US*) /ə'lu:mənəm/ *or Brit* **al•u•min•i•um** /,æljə'mɪnijəm/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a silver metal that is strong and light and that is used for making many products — often used before another noun ▪ *aluminum* cans ▪ ***aluminum foil*** [=a very thin sheet of aluminum that is used for covering or wrapping food]

alum•na /ə'lʌmnə/ *noun, pl* **-nae** /ə'lʌmni/ [*count*] *chiefly US* : a woman who was a student at a particular school, college, or university ▪ a group of Harvard *alumnae* — compare ALUMNUS, OLD GIRL

alum•nus /ə'lʌmnəs/ *noun, pl* **-ni** /ə'lʌm,naɪ/ [*count*] *chiefly US* : someone who was a student at a particular school, college, or university ▪ Her parents are *alumni* of the state university. ✧ The plural form *alumni* usually refers to all of the men and women who are former students of a school, college, or university. ▪ the college's *alumni* ▪ the *alumni* association — compare ALUMNA, OLD BOY

al•ve•o•lar /æl'vi:jələɚ/ *adj, technical* : of or relating to a speech sound that is made with the tip of the tongue touching the roof of the mouth near the front teeth ▪ The word "two" begins with an *alveolar* sound.

al•ways /'ɑ:l,weɪz/ *adv*
1 a : at all times : on every occasion : in a way that does not change ▪ He *always* tries, but he doesn't *always* succeed. ▪ It's *always* a pleasure to see you. ▪ I can *always* tell when he's upset. ▪ He's *always* [=*constantly*] looking for ways to make money. ▪ She's almost *always* smiling. ▪ This area is *always* filled with tourists. ▪ You should *always* (remember to) wear your seat belt. ▪ The holidays are *always* a very busy time for us. = (*less commonly*) The holidays *always* are a very busy time for us. ▪ Things won't *always* go as planned. ▪ You're *always* welcome to stay with us. — opposite NEVER **b** : at all times in the past ▪ He has *always* been a good friend to me. ▪ They didn't *always* get along so well. [=they get along now, but they didn't like each other in the past] ▪ It hasn't *always* been easy for him. [=difficult or sad things have happened to him] ▪ He could *always* make me angry. = He *always* could make me angry. [=he often made me angry]
2 : throughout all time : for a very long time: such as **a** : forever into the future ▪ I'll remember you *always*. [=forever] ▪ You'll *always* be my best friend. = You're my best friend, and you *always* will be. ▪ Life won't *always* be this easy. **b** : forever in the past : from the beginning of the time that can be remembered ▪ I've *always* loved you. ▪ I *always* thought they'd get married some day, but they never did. ▪ Isn't that what you've *always* wanted? ▪ She *always* wanted to be famous. ▪ It has *always* been my goal to have my own business. ▪ He's *always* been a firm believer in hard work. = He's a firm believer in hard work, and he *always* has been.
3 : often, frequently, or repeatedly ▪ We *always* tell people not to arrive too early. ▪ My parents *always* told me not to speak to strangers. — often used to describe repeated behavior that is annoying ▪ She's *always* calling me by the wrong name. ▪ Must you *always* be so rude?! ▪ He *always* tells such

funny stories. = He's *always* telling such funny stories.

4 — used to suggest another possibility ▪ If we don't win today, there's *always* tomorrow. [=we might win tomorrow] — usually used after *can* or *could* ▪ If she doesn't answer the phone now, you *can/could always* try (calling) again later. ▪ If you don't have enough money now, you *can always* use your credit card.

as always — used to say that something was expected because it always happens ▪ *As always*, dinner was delicious. [=dinner was delicious, as it always is] ▪ Your children, *as always*, were very well-behaved. [=your children were well-behaved, as they always are]

Alz·hei·mer's disease /'ɑ:lts,haɪməz-/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a disease of the brain that causes people to slowly lose their memory and mental abilities as they grow old — called also *Alzheimer's*

am see BE

AM /'eɪ,ɛm/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a system for sending radio signals in which the height of a radio wave is changed in order to send information in the form of sound ✧ *AM* is an abbreviation for *amplitude modulation*. — compare FM

– **AM** *adj* ▪ listening to my favorite *AM* station [=a radio station that sends sound using AM] ▪ Is this station *AM* or FM? ▪ *AM* radios

a.m. *or* **AM** *or Brit* **am** *abbr* in the morning — used with numbers to show the time of day ▪ She woke up at 6 *a.m.* and didn't go to bed until midnight. ▪ The class is held from 11:30 *a.m.* to/until 2:15 p.m. ▪ ***12 a.m.*** [=*midnight, one hour after 11 p.m.*] ✧ The abbreviation *a.m.* stands for the Latin phrase *ante meridiem*, which means "before noon." — compare P.M.

amal·gam /ə'mælgəm/ *noun, pl* **-gams**

1 [*count*] *formal* : a combination or mixture of different things — usually singular ▪ Several different styles of music come together in an unusual *amalgam*. — usually + *of* ▪ an *amalgam* [=*amalgamation*] *of* sweet and spicy flavors ▪ The language they speak is an *amalgam of* Spanish and English.

2 [*noncount*] *technical* : a mixture of mercury and other metals used for filling holes in teeth

amal·gam·ate /ə'mælgə,meɪt/ *verb* **-ates**; **-at·ed**; **-at·ing** [+ *obj*] *formal* : to unite (two or more things, such as two businesses) into one thing ▪ They decided to *amalgamate* [=(more commonly) *merge*] the two companies. ▪ *amalgamating* different styles of music ▪ They *amalgamated* the hospital and/with the university. — often used as *(be) amalgamated* ▪ The hospital *was amalgamated with* the university.

– **amal·gam·ation** /ə,mælgə'meɪʃən/ *noun* [*singular*] an *amalgamation* of different styles of music [*noncount*] the *amalgamation* of the two companies

amass /ə'mæs/ *verb* **amass·es**; **amassed**; **amass·ing** [+ *obj*] : to gather or collect (something, such as a large amount of money) especially for yourself ▪ By the time he was 21, he had already *amassed* [=*accumulated*] a great fortune. ▪ The police are *amassing* [=*gathering*] further evidence against him. ▪ They've *amassed* a wealth of information.

am·a·teur /'æmə,tɚ/ *noun, pl* **-teurs** [*count*]

1 : a person who does something (such as a sport or hobby) for pleasure and not as a job ▪ She played soccer as an *amateur* before turning professional. ▪ These photos were taken by both *amateurs* and professionals.

2 : a person who does something poorly : a person who is not skillful at a job or other activity ▪ The people running that company are a bunch of *amateurs*. ▪ Only *amateurs* make this kind of mistake. ▪ He's a mere *amateur* when it comes to cooking. [=he doesn't know how to cook well]

– **amateur** *adj, always used before a noun* ▪ *amateur* photographers/athletes ▪ an *amateur* competition [=a contest for amateurs] ▪ They competed at the *amateur* level. – **am·a·teur·ism** /'æmə,tɚ,ɪzəm/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ a strong supporter of *amateurism* in sports ▪ the *amateurism* [=the lack of skill] of her writing style

amateur dramatics *noun* [*noncount*] *Brit* : COMMUNITY THEATER 1

– **amateur dramatic** *adj, Brit* ▪ the local *amateur dramatic* society

am·a·teur·ish /,æmə'tɚɪʃ/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : lacking experience or skill ▪ His acting is hopelessly *amateurish*. = He's a hopelessly *amateurish* actor.

– **am·a·teur·ish·ly** *adv* ▪ He acts very *amateurishly*.

am·a·to·ry /'æmə,tori, *Brit* 'æmətəri/ *adj, literary* : of, relating to, or expressing sexual love ▪ a book of *amatory* [=*amorous*] poems ▪ their secret *amatory* relationship

amaze /ə'meɪz/ *verb* **amaz·es**; **amazed**; **amaz·ing** : to surprise and sometimes confuse (someone) very much : to fill (someone) with wonder [+ *obj*] He has *amazed* audiences around the world with his magic tricks. ▪ It *amazes* me that no one noticed the error. ▪ I am always *amazed* by her garden's beauty. = Her garden's beauty ***never fails/ceases to amaze*** me. [*no obj*] Her garden's beauty *never fails/ceases to amaze*.

amazed *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : feeling or showing great surprise ▪ The magician performed before a crowd of *amazed* spectators. ▪ There was an *amazed* expression on her face. ▪ His friends were *amazed* [=*stunned, dumbfounded*] when he said that he was getting married. — often + *that* ▪ We were *amazed* [=*astonished, astounded*] *that* no one was injured in the accident. ▪ I'm *amazed that* no one noticed the error. — often + *at* or *by* ▪ You'll be *amazed at* how easy it can be. ▪ They were *amazed at/by* the size of the place. — often followed by *to* + *verb* ▪ They were *amazed to discover* that their grandmother had been a professional dancer.

amaze·ment /ə'meɪzmənt/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a feeling of being very surprised or amazed ▪ The garden's beauty filled me with *amazement*. [=*astonishment*] ▪ The crowd watched ***in amazement*** as the magician performed his tricks. ▪ I applied for the job, and, (much) ***to my amazement***, I was hired. [=I was very surprised to be hired] ▪ Much ***to the amazement of*** her family, she left school to pursue her acting career.

amazing *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : causing great surprise or wonder : causing amazement ▪ She gave an *amazing* [=*wonderful*] performance in her first film. ▪ It's *amazing* [=difficult to believe] how/that many adults in this country don't know how to read. ▪ He showed an *amazing* lack of concern for others. ▪ The *amazing* thing is that no one knows where it came from. ▪ He has an *amazing* ability to learn new languages. ▪ Her grandmother was really an *amazing* woman. ▪ He's created an *amazing* number [=a surprisingly large number] of new designs for the spring.

– **amaz·ing·ly** *adv* ▪ an *amazingly* beautiful garden ▪ *Amazingly* (enough), the dog swam all the way across the lake.

am·a·zon /'æmə,zɑ:n/ *noun, pl* **-zons** [*count*]

1 ***Amazon*** : a member of a group of female warriors in stories told by the ancient Greeks

2 : a tall and strong woman ▪ I felt dwarfed, standing beside this redheaded *amazon*.

am·bas·sa·dor /æm'bæsədɚ/ *noun, pl* **-dors** [*count*] : the highest-ranking person who represents his or her own government while living in another country ▪ Embassy officials met with the *ambassador*. — often + *to* ▪ She became the American *ambassador to* Italy [=she began representing America in Italy] several years ago. — often used figuratively ▪ a baseball player who has been a very effective *ambassador* [=*representative*] for his sport ▪ an *ambassador* of hope [=a person who tries to bring hope to another country or group of people] ▪ a ***goodwill ambassador*** [=a person who travels to different places to promote friendship and goodwill]

– **am·bas·sa·do·ri·al** /æm,bæsə'dorijəl/ *adj* ▪ his first *ambassadorial* assignment

am·ber /'æmbɚ/ *noun* [*noncount*]

1 : a hard orange-yellow substance that can be polished and used for jewelry and other decorations

2 : a dark orange-yellow color — see color picture on page C2

– **amber** *adj* ▪ the *amber* light of the late afternoon sun ▪ " . . . *amber* waves of grain . . . " —Katharine Lee Bates, "America the Beautiful" (1911)

am·bi·dex·trous /,æmbɪ'dɛkstrəs/ *adj* : able to use both hands equally well ▪ an *ambidextrous* baseball player

– **am·bi·dex·trous·ly** *adv* – **am·bi·dex·trous·ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

am·bi·ence *or* **am·bi·ance** /'æmbijəns/ *noun* [*singular*] *formal* : the mood or feeling of a particular place ▪ They used soft music and candlelight to give the restaurant a romantic *ambience*. [=*atmosphere*] ▪ the *ambience* of a tropical island

am·bi·ent /'æmbijənt/ *adj*

1 *technical* : surrounding on all sides ▪ Keep the chemicals at an *ambient* temperature of 70°F. ▪ the *ambient* air quality ▪ the bright *ambient* light of the room

2 *of electronic music* : quiet and relaxing with melodies that repeat many times ▪ People shopped as *ambient* music played in the background. ▪ *ambient* instrumental music

am·bi·gu·i·ty /,æmbə'gju:wəti/ *noun, pl* **-ties** : something that does not have a single clear meaning : something that is

A

ambiguous [*noncount*] You should remove *ambiguity* [=*vagueness*] from your essay by adding more details. ▪ ***moral ambiguity*** [=lack of certainty about whether something is right or wrong] [*count*] the *ambiguities* in his answers

am•big•u•ous /æmˈbɪgjəwəs/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*]
1 : able to be understood in more than one way : having more than one possible meaning ▪ We were confused by the *ambiguous* wording of the message. ▪ He looked at her with an *ambiguous* smile. ▪ Due to the *ambiguous* nature of the question, it was difficult to choose the right answer. — opposite UNAMBIGUOUS ***synonyms*** see ¹OBSCURE
2 : not expressed or understood clearly ▪ He felt that his role in the company was becoming more *ambiguous*. [=*uncertain*] ▪ the *ambiguous* position of women in modern society
– **am•big•u•ous•ly** *adv* ▪ His answers were worded *ambiguously*, so no one could be sure what he meant.

am•bit /ˈæmbət/ *noun, pl* **-bits** [*count*] *formal* : the range or limit that is covered by something (such as a law) : SCOPE — usually singular ▪ I'm afraid your case doesn't ***fall within the ambit*** of our jurisdiction.

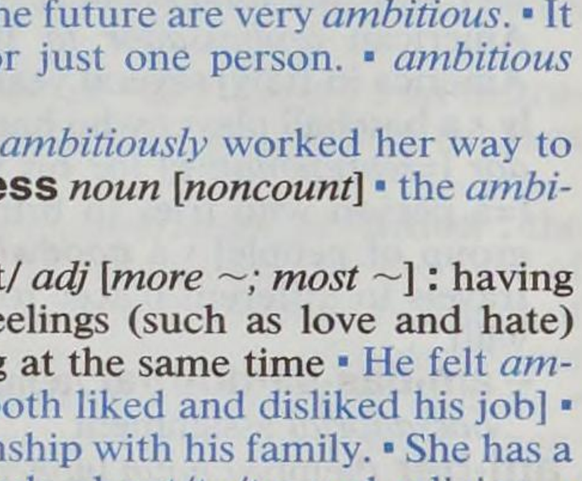
am•bi•tion /æmˈbɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions**
1 [*count*] : a particular goal or aim : something that a person hopes to do or achieve ▪ My first *ambition* as a child was to be in the circus. ▪ The wife of a famous poet, she had literary *ambitions* of her own. [=she wanted to be a writer too] ▪ He has *ambitions* for an acting career. = He has *ambitions* to become an actor. = His *ambition* is to be/become an actor. ▪ She finally achieved/realized/fulfilled her ***life's ambition*** [=the thing she most wanted to do in her life] when she started her own business.
2 [*noncount*] : a desire to be successful, powerful, or famous ▪ He lacked *ambition* and couldn't compete with the others. ▪ With her talent and fierce *ambition* [=her very strong desire to succeed], she became a very successful actress.
3 [*noncount*] *US* : a desire to do things and be active — usually used in negative constructions ▪ I was tired and had no *ambition* [=*initiative*, *energy*], so I just spent the whole weekend watching TV.

am•bi•tious /æmˈbɪʃəs/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*]
1 : having ambition : having a desire to be successful, powerful, or famous ▪ The company was created by two very *ambitious* young men in the early 1900s. ▪ *ambitious* politicians/lawyers ▪ He was very ***ambitious for*** his children but not for himself. [=he wanted his children to be successful but he didn't feel the need to be successful himself]
2 : not easily done or achieved : requiring or showing ambition ▪ This 500-page book is her most *ambitious* effort/project yet. ▪ Your plans for the future are very *ambitious*. ▪ It was too *ambitious* a task for just one person. ▪ *ambitious* goals
– **am•bi•tious•ly** *adv* ▪ She *ambitiously* worked her way to the top. – **am•bi•tious•ness** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the *ambitiousness* of the plan

am•biv•a•lent /æmˈbɪvələnt/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : having or showing very different feelings (such as love and hate) about someone or something at the same time ▪ He felt *ambivalent* about his job. [=he both liked and disliked his job] ▪ He has an *ambivalent* relationship with his family. ▪ She has a deeply/very *ambivalent* attitude about/to/toward religion. ▪ The senator is *ambivalent* about running for president. [=the senator has not decided whether or not to run for president]
– **am•biv•a•lence** /æmˈbɪvələns/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ He feels some *ambivalence* about/toward/towards his job.
– **am•biv•a•lent•ly** *adj* ▪ He spoke *ambivalently* about his feelings for his family.

am•ble /ˈæmbəl/ *verb, always followed by an adverb or preposition* **am•bles**; **am•bled**; **am•bling** [*no obj*] : to walk slowly in a free and relaxed way ▪ We *ambled* along as we talked. ▪ They *ambled* down/up/along the road. ▪ We spent the day *ambling* [=*strolling*, *sauntering*] through the park.

am•bu•lance /ˈæmbjələns/ *noun, pl* **-lanc•es** [*count*] : a vehicle used for taking hurt or sick people to the hospital especially in emergencies ▪ They called (for) an *ambulance*. ▪ She was taken ***by ambulance*** [=in an ambulance] to the hospital. ▪ (*disapproving*) She had a reputation for being an ***ambulance chaser***. [=a lawyer who gets clients by convincing accident victims that they should file a lawsuit about the accident]



ambulance

¹am•bush /ˈæmˌbʊʃ/ *noun, pl* **-bush•es**
1 [*count*] : an act of hiding, waiting for others to appear, and then suddenly attacking them : a surprise attack ▪ Many soldiers were killed in the *ambush*.
2 [*noncount*] : a hidden place from which a surprise attack can be made ▪ The soldiers were ***lying in ambush***, waiting for the enemy to approach. ▪ a snake ***waiting in ambush*** for its next meal

²ambush *verb* **-bush•es**; **-bushed**; **-bush•ing** [+ *obj*] : to attack (someone or something) by surprise from a hidden place ▪ We have reports of enemy soldiers *ambushing* civilians on this road. — often used as *(be) ambushed* ▪ He *was ambushed* and killed by robbers on his way home. — often used figuratively ▪ As she left the courthouse, she *was ambushed* by a group of reporters. ▪ Her book *was ambushed* [=criticized in a harsh and unfair way] by the critics.

ameba *variant spelling of* AMOEBA

ame•lio•rate /əˈmiːljəˌreɪt/ *verb* **-rates**; **-rat•ed**; **-rat•ing** [+ *obj*] *formal* : to make (something, such as a problem) better, less painful, etc. ▪ trying to *ameliorate* the suffering of people who have lost their jobs ▪ This medicine should help *ameliorate* the pain.
– **ame•lio•ra•tion** /əˌmiːljəˈreɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*]

amen /ɑˈmɛn, eɪˈmɛn/ *interj*
1 — used at the end of a prayer
2 — used to express agreement or approval ▪ People in the crowd shouted "*Amen*!" when the speaker said that change was needed. ▪ "I'll be glad when this winter is over." "***Amen to that***!" [=I agree very much with that]

ame•na•ble /əˈmiːnəbəl/ *adj*
1 [*more ~; most ~*] : willing to agree or to accept something that is wanted or asked for ▪ an *amenable* child — usually + *to* ▪ The children are generally *amenable to* our wishes. ▪ a government that is not *amenable to* change [=a government that resists change]
2 *formal* : able to be controlled, organized, or affected by something — + *to* ▪ The disease is not *amenable to* surgery. [=it cannot be fixed by surgery] ▪ data *amenable to* analysis [=data that can be analyzed]

amend /əˈmɛnd/ *verb* **amends**; **amend•ed**; **amend•ing** [+ *obj*]
1 : to change some of the words and often the meaning of (a law, document, etc.) ▪ The country's constitution was *amended* to allow women to vote. ▪ They voted to *amend* the law in 1920. — compare EMEND
2 : to change and improve (something, such as a mistake or bad situation) ▪ He tried to *amend* the situation by apologizing to me.

amend•ment /əˈmɛndmənt/ *noun, pl* **-ments**
1 [*count*] : a change in the words or meaning of a law or document (such as a constitution) ▪ constitutional *amendments* — often + *to* ▪ They proposed an *amendment to* the law. [=they officially suggested that a change be made to the law] ▪ an *amendment to* section 37(a) of the tax code ✧ The names of the amendments that have been made to the U.S. Constitution are usually capitalized. ▪ The first 10 *Amendments* to the Constitution of the United States are called the Bill of Rights. ▪ Our right to free speech is protected by the *First Amendment* (of the U.S. Constitution).
2 [*noncount*] : the act or process of changing the words or meaning of a law or document : the act or process of amending something ▪ rights that were granted by *amendment* of the Constitution

amends /əˈmɛndz/ *noun*
make amends : to do something to correct a mistake that you have made or a bad situation that you have caused ▪ She tried to *make amends* by apologizing to him. ▪ I'd like to *make amends* (to you) for my behavior last night.

ame•ni•ty /əˈmɛnəti/ *noun, pl* **-ties** [*count*] : something that makes life easier or more pleasant ▪ The hotel has every *amenity* you could want. — usually plural ▪ It offers all the *amenities* you would expect in a car of its size. ▪ The hotel has other *amenities* such as a restaurant, swimming pool, and exercise room. ▪ The government intends to provide the isolated town with ***basic amenities***. [=basic things such as roads, running water, and electricity] ▪ We have never really liked each other, but we ***observe the social amenities*** [=we behave with politeness towards each other] whenever we meet.

Am•er•asian /ˈæməˈreɪʒən/ *noun, pl* **-asians** [*count*] : a person who has one parent from the U.S. (such as a father

who served in the armed forces) and one parent from Asia

[1]Amer•i•can /ə'merəkən/ *noun, pl* **-cans** [*count*]
1 : a person born, raised, or living in the U.S. ▪ *Americans* in all 50 states ▪ The President's speech began with the words "My fellow *Americans* . . ."
2 : a person born, raised, or living in North America or South America — see also NATIVE AMERICAN

[2]American *adj*
1 : of or relating to the U.S. or its citizens ▪ *American* culture/government/history ▪ the *American* people ▪ their *American* friends
2 : of or relating to North America, South America, or the people who live there ▪ the *American* continents ▪ a tropical *American* tree
(as) American as apple pie see APPLE PIE

Amer•i•ca•na /əˌmerə'kɑ:nə/ *noun* [*noncount*] : things produced in the U.S. and thought to be typical of the U.S. or its culture ▪ collectors of *Americana* ▪ handmade quilts and other pieces of *Americana*

American cheese *noun* [*noncount*] : a mild cheese made in the U.S. from cheddar cheese

American dream *noun*
the American dream *or* ***the American Dream*** : a happy way of living that is thought of by many Americans as something that can be achieved by anyone in the U.S. especially by working hard and becoming successful ▪ With good jobs, a nice house, two children, and plenty of money, they believed they were living *the American dream*.

American English *noun* [*noncount*] : the English language used in the U.S. ▪ There are many differences between British English and *American English*.

> ***usage*** The term *American English* is only used in the U.S. when it is being compared to some other kind of English. English speakers in the U.S. generally refer to the language they speak simply as *English*.

American football *noun* [*noncount*] : FOOTBALL 1a

American Indian *noun, pl* ~ **-ans** [*count*] : NATIVE AMERICAN ***usage*** see NATIVE AMERICAN

Amer•i•can•ism /ə'merəkəˌnɪzəm/ *noun, pl* **-isms** [*count*] : a word or meaning that is common in U.S. English but is not common in the kinds of English spoken outside the U.S.

Amer•i•can•ize *also Brit* **Amer•i•can•ise** /ə'merəkəˌnaɪz/ *verb* **-iz•es**; **-ized**; **-iz•ing** [+ *obj*] : to make (something or someone) American : to cause (something or someone) to have American characteristics ▪ The editors of the book decided to *Americanize* the spelling.
– **Amer•i•can•i•za•tion** *also Brit* **Amer•i•can•i•sa•tion** /əˌmerəkənə'zeɪʃən, *Brit* əˌmɛrəkəˌnaɪ'zeɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the *Americanization* of cultures around the world
– **Americanized** *also Brit* **Americanised** *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ The longer she stays in the U.S., the more *Americanized* she becomes. ▪ an *Americanized* city

American League *noun*
the American League : one of the two major leagues in professional U.S. baseball ✧ In the American League, the designated hitter bats in place of the pitcher. — compare NATIONAL LEAGUE

American Revolution *noun*
the American Revolution : the war of 1775–83 in which 13 British colonies in North America broke free from British rule and became the United States of America — called also (*chiefly Brit*) *American War of Independence*

American Sign Language *noun* [*noncount*] : a kind of sign language used in the U.S. and Canada

Am•er•in•di•an /ˌæmə'rɪndijən/ *noun, pl* **-ians** [*count*] : NATIVE AMERICAN
– **Amerindian** *adj* ▪ *Amerindian* cultures/languages/population

am•e•thyst /'æməθəst/ *noun, pl* **-thysts**
1 [*count*] : a clear purple or bluish-purple stone that is used as a gem — see color picture on page C11
2 [*noncount*] : a medium purple color — see color picture on page C3
– **amethyst** *adj*

ami•a•ble /'eɪmijəbəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : friendly and pleasant ▪ Everyone knew him as an *amiable* fellow. ▪ She had an *amiable* conversation with her friend.
– **ami•a•bil•i•ty** /ˌeɪmiə'bɪləti/ *noun* [*noncount*] the *amiability* of their conversation [*singular*] She has a warm *amiability*. – **ami•a•bly** /'eɪmijəbli/ *adv* ▪ They chatted *amiably* with one another.

am•i•ca•ble /'æmɪkəbəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : showing a polite and friendly desire to avoid disagreement and argument ▪ The discussions were *amicable*. ▪ They reached an *amicable* agreement.
– **am•i•ca•bil•i•ty** /ˌæmɪkə'bɪləti/ *noun* [*noncount*] – **am•i•ca•bly** /'æmɪkəbli/ *adv* ▪ They met and settled the problem *amicably*.

amid /ə'mɪd/ *or* **amidst** /ə'mɪdst/ *prep* : in or into the middle of (something) ▪ It was hard to hear *amid* all the cheering. ▪ The investigation comes *amid* growing concerns. ▪ *Amid* such changes, one thing stayed the same. ▪ *Amidst* [=*during*] all the fighting there still remained a steady hope for peace. ▪ He managed to escape *amid* the confusion. ▪ There was a single dark bird *amid* a flock of white pigeons.

amid•ships /ə'mɪdˌʃɪps/ *adv* : in or near the middle of a ship ▪ The berths are located *amidships*.

ami•go /ə'mi:goʊ/ *noun, pl* **-gos** [*count*] *chiefly US, informal* : FRIEND ▪ What's new, *amigo*? ✧ *Amigo* is the Spanish word for "friend."

ami•no acid /ə'mi:noʊ-/ *noun, pl* ~ **acids** [*count*] *biology* : any one of many acids that occur naturally in living things and that include some which form proteins

Amish /'ɑ:mɪʃ/ *adj* : of or relating to a Christian religious group whose members settled in America chiefly in the 18th century and continue to live in a traditional way on farms ▪ an *Amish* community/farmer
– **Amish** *noun* [*plural*] ▪ a tradition among the *Amish* ▪ the *Amish* who live nearby

[1]amiss /ə'mɪs/ *adj, not used before a noun* : not proper or correct : WRONG ▪ Something is *amiss* here. ▪ Some of his assumptions are *amiss*. ▪ The doctor's examination showed that nothing was *amiss*. ▪ A special award for her performance would not be *amiss*. [=would be proper]

[2]amiss *adv* : in the wrong way ▪ Now, don't take this remark *amiss*. [=don't misunderstand this remark] ▪ (*Brit*) A little more encouragement would not ***come/go amiss***. [=would not be unwelcome; would be proper, helpful, or appropriate]

am•i•ty /'æməti/ *noun* [*noncount*] *formal* : a feeling of friendship : friendly relations between nations or groups ▪ an era of international *amity*

am•mo /'æmoʊ/ *noun* [*noncount*] *informal* : AMMUNITION ▪ The soldiers ran out of *ammo*.

am•mo•nia /ə'moʊnjə/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a colorless gas or liquid that has a strong smell and taste and that is used especially in cleaning products

am•mu•ni•tion /ˌæmjə'nɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the objects (such as bullets and shells) that are shot from weapons ▪ The troops were supplied with weapons and *ammunition*. — often used figuratively ▪ She had the *ammunition* to prove her case. [=she had the evidence she needed to prove her case] ▪ His foolish statements provided his opponents with more *ammunition* to use against him in the campaign.

am•ne•sia /æm'ni:ʒə/ *noun* [*noncount*] *medical* : a condition in which a person is unable to remember things because of brain injury, shock, or illness
– **am•ne•si•ac** /æm'ni:ʒiˌæk/ *adj* ▪ an *amnesiac* patient
– **amnesiac** *noun, pl* **-acs** [*count*] ▪ a movie about a friendless *amnesiac* [=a person who has amnesia]

am•nes•ty /'æmnəsti/ *noun, pl* **-ties** : a decision that a group of people will not be punished or that a group of prisoners will be allowed to go free [*noncount*] The government gave/granted *amnesty* to/for all political prisoners. ▪ Illegal immigrants who came into the country before 1982 were granted/given *amnesty*. [*count*] — usually singular ▪ The government gave/granted a general *amnesty* to/for all political prisoners. ▪ The library declared an *amnesty* from fines for all books that are returned on Thursday.
– **amnesty** *verb* **-ties**; **-tied**; **-ty•ing** [+ *obj*] ▪ The government *amnestied* all political prisoners.

am•nio•cen•te•sis /ˌæmnijoʊˌsɛn'ti:səs/ *noun, pl* **-te•ses** /-'ti:ˌsi:z/ [*count*] *medical* : a test that is done to check for possible health problems in a baby that is not yet born

amoe•ba *also US* **ame•ba** /ə'mi:bə/ *noun, pl* **-bas** *or* **-bae** /-ˌbi:/ [*count*] : a tiny living thing that consists of a single cell
– **amoe•bic** *also US* **ame•bic** /ə'mi:bɪk/ *adj*

amok *also* **amuck** /ə'mʌk/ *adv* : in a wild or uncontrolled manner — used in the phrase ***run amok*** ▪ After the attack, the looters were *running amok*. ▪ The virus *ran amok*. ▪ Conditions had allowed extremism to *run amok*.

among /ə'mʌŋ/ *also* **amongst** /ə'mʌŋst/ *prep*
1 : in or through (a group of people or things) ▪ The disease

A

spread quickly *among* the members of the community. ▪ The house is nestled *among* the trees. ▪ The ball was hidden *among* the leaves. ▪ There were ducks *among* the geese. ▪ There were several hecklers scattered *among* the crowd.

2 : in the presence of (a group of people) ▪ The leader was standing *among* [=*amidst*] his supporters. ▪ She enjoys spending time at home *among* [=*with*] family and friends. ▪ He lived *among* artists and writers. ▪ The people of the town were frightened to think that a killer might be living *among* them. ▪ Relax. ***You're among friends*** here. [=the people here are your friends] ✧ When people do something ***among themselves***, they do it as a group without involving others. ▪ The brothers are always quarreling *among themselves*. [=are always quarreling with each other] ▪ They were unable to agree *among themselves*. ▪ We were joking *among ourselves*.

3 — used to talk about the opinions, feelings, etc., of a group of people ▪ There is much unhappiness *among* voters. [=many voters are unhappy] ▪ attitudes that are common *among* older people [=attitudes that many older people have] ▪ There is debate *among* researchers about the causes of this disease. ▪ a TV show that is popular *among* young women ▪ He is known *among* his colleagues as a reliable worker.

4 — used to indicate the group of people or things involved in or affected by something ▪ The new policy has led to increased competition *among* local businesses. ▪ There has been a high rate of illness *among* the children in this community. ▪ No one *among* them expected to survive.

5 — used to say that a person or thing is part of a larger group ▪ He is *among* her greatest admirers. [=he is one of her greatest admirers] ▪ He can be counted *among* the greatest players in the game's history. ▪ *Among* his good qualities is honesty. ▪ He has many good qualities. Chief *among* them is his honesty. ▪ ***Among other things*** she was president of her college class. ▪ She met with the company's president and vice president, ***among others***.

6 — used to indicate the group of people or things being considered, compared, etc. ▪ They compared several new cars but found few differences *among* them. ▪ We were allowed to choose (from) *among* several options.

7 : in shares to each of (a group of people) ▪ The property was divided equally *among* the four survivors. [=each of the four survivors received an equal share of the property] ▪ The food was distributed *among* the people.

8 — used to describe someone who is unusual or excellent in some way ▪ He is an actor *among* actors. [=he is a great actor] ▪ He was a giant *among* men. [=he was very famous, powerful, successful, etc.]

amor•al /eɪ'morəl/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] **:** having or showing no concern about whether behavior is morally right or wrong ▪ *amoral* politicians ▪ He is an *amoral*, selfish person pursuing his own goals. ▪ a cynical and *amoral* way of competing for business — compare IMMORAL, [1]MORAL
– **amo•ral•i•ty** /ˌeɪmə'rælətɪ/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ sexual *amorality* [=amoral behavior] ▪ the *amorality* of his behavior
– **amor•al•ly** /ˌeɪ'morəlɪ/ *adv* ▪ behaving/acting *amorally*

am•o•rous /'æmərəs/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] **:** having or showing strong feelings of sexual attraction or love ▪ an *amorous* woman ▪ He has an *amorous* nature. ▪ She was feeling *amorous*. ▪ an *amorous* glance
– **am•o•rous•ly** *adv* – **am•o•rous•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

amor•phous /ə'moəfəs/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] **:** having no definite or clear shape or form ▪ an *amorphous* shape ▪ *amorphous* [=*shapeless*] clouds ▪ an *amorphous* segment of society
– **amor•phous•ly** *adv* – **amor•phous•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

am•or•tize *also Brit* **am•or•tise** /'æməˌtaɪz, *Brit* ə'mɔːˌtaɪz/ *verb* **-tiz•es**; **-tized**; **-tiz•ing** [+ *obj*] *business* **:** to pay money that is owed for something (such as a mortgage) by making regular payments over a long period of time ▪ *amortize* a debt/loan
– **am•or•ti•za•tion** *also Brit* **am•or•ti•sa•tion** /ˌæməˌtə'zeɪʃən, *Brit* æˌmɔːˌtaɪ'zeɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*]

[1]amount /ə'maʊnt/ *noun, pl* **amounts** [*count*]
1 : a quantity of something ▪ The drug is not being produced in adequate *amounts*. — usually + *of* ▪ They are not producing an adequate *amount of* the drug. [=they are not producing enough of the drug] ▪ A considerable/fair/great/large/tremendous *amount of* research went into the report. ▪ Be sure to add the right *amount of* salt. ▪ She spent amazing/enormous *amounts of* time planning her garden. ▪ There's a certain *amount of* truth to/in what you say. [=there is some truth in what you say] ▪ The new law limits the *amount of* money a candidate can spend. ▪ We have ***any amount of*** available resources. = We have a large *amount of* available resources. ▪ ***No amount of*** money can make up for their loss. [=money cannot make up for their loss]
2 : a quantity of money ▪ What is the *amount* to be paid? ▪ An *amount* was finally agreed upon. ▪ The new law limits the *amount* a candidate can spend. ▪ When he died we found he owed money ***to/in the amount of*** $250,000!

> ***usage*** *Amount* is chiefly used with noncount nouns. ▪ He lost a large *amount* of money. ▪ a minimum *amount* of effort ▪ They provided only a small *amount* of information. It is also sometimes used with plural count nouns, but this use is often criticized as an error. ▪ There were a large *amount* of mistakes. *Number* is the usual word in such contexts. ▪ a large *number* of mistakes ▪ an increasing *number* of problems

[2]amount *verb* **amounts**; **amount•ed**; **amount•ing**
amount to [*phrasal verb*] ***amount to (something)*** **1 :** to produce (a total) when added together ▪ The bill *amounted to* 10 dollars. ▪ They have debts *amounting to* thousands of dollars. ▪ The number of people taking part *amounted to* no more than a few hundred. **2 :** to turn out to be (something or someone important, impressive, etc.) ▪ The problems didn't ***amount to much***. [=the problems were not very bad] ▪ I don't think he'll ever ***amount to anything***. [=achieve success] **3 :** to be the same in meaning or effect as (something) ▪ acts that *amount to* treason ▪ Anything less than total victory would *amount to* failure/failing. [=would be the same as failure/failing]

amour /ə'muə/ *noun, pl* **amours** [*count*] *literary* **:** a sexual relationship **:** a love affair; *especially* **:** a secret love affair ▪ memoirs devoted to accounts of his *amours*

amp /'æmp/ *noun, pl* **amps** [*count*]
1 : AMPERE ▪ a current of 15 *amps* = a 15-*amp* current
2 *informal* **:** AMPLIFIER ▪ He plugged his guitar into the *amp*.

am•per•age /'æmpərɪʤ/ *noun* [*noncount*] *technical* **:** the strength of a current of electricity expressed in amperes

am•pere /'æmˌpiə, *Brit* 'æmˌpɛə/ *noun, pl* **-peres** [*count*] *technical* **:** a unit for measuring the rate at which electric current flows ▪ a current of 15 *amperes* — called also *amp*

am•per•sand /'æmpəˌsænd/ *noun, pl* **-sands** [*count*] **:** a character & that is used for the word *and* ▪ Mr. & [=*and*] Mrs. Joe Smith

am•phet•amine /æm'fɛtəˌmiːn/ *noun, pl* **-amines** [*count*] **:** a drug that causes the nervous system to become more active so that a person feels more energy and mental excitement

am•phib•i•an /æm'fɪbijən/ *noun, pl* **-ans** [*count*]
1 : an animal (such as a frog or toad) that can live both on land and in water
2 : an airplane or vehicle that can be used both on land and water

am•phib•i•ous /æm'fɪbijəs/ *adj*
1 : able to live both on land and in water ▪ *amphibious* plants/animals
2 : able to be used both on land and water ▪ *amphibious* airplanes/vehicles
3 : done by soldiers who are brought to land in special boats **:** carried out by land and sea forces acting together ▪ an *amphibious* assault/landing

am•phi•the•a•ter (*US*) *or chiefly Brit* **am•phi•the•a•tre** /'æmfəˌθiːjətə/ *noun, pl* **-ters** [*count*]
1 : a large building with seats rising in curved rows around an open space on which games and plays take place
2 : an area of level ground surrounded by hills ▪ a natural *amphitheater*

am•ple /'æmpəl/ *adj* **am•pler** /'æmplə/; **am•plest** /'æmpləst/ [*also more ~; most ~*]
1 a : having or providing enough or more than enough of what is needed ▪ There was *ample* room for a garden. [=there was plenty of room for a garden] ▪ They had *ample* money for the trip. ▪ The police found *ample* evidence of wrongdoing. ▪ There is *ample* parking at the stadium. ▪ You will have *ample* opportunity/time to finish the test. ▪ The light in the room is more than *ample*. ***synonyms*** see PLENTIFUL **b :** quite large ▪ There was room for an *ample* garden. ▪ an *ample* serving of pie
2 — used to describe a person's (especially a woman's) body as being large in usually an attractive way ▪ She has an *ample* figure. ▪ a woman with an *ample* bosom
– **am•ply** /'æmpli/ *adv* ▪ These facts *amply* demonstrate that

something is wrong. ▪ an *amply* stocked store ▪ You will be *amply* rewarded for your efforts. [=you will be given a large reward for your efforts]

am•pli•fi•er /'æmplə,fajɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : a device that increases the strength of electric signals so that sounds played through an electronic system are louder ▪ He plugged his electric guitar into an *amplifier*. — called also (*informal*) *amp*

am•pli•fy /'æmplə,faɪ/ *verb* **-fies**; **-fied**; **-fy•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 a : to increase the strength of (an electric signal) ▪ *amplify* a weak radio signal ▪ a receiver that *amplified* the television signal **b** : to make (something, such as a musical instrument) louder by increasing the strength of electric signals ▪ *amplify* an electric guitar

2 *formal* : to give more information about (something, such as a statement) : to speak or write about (something) in a more complete way ▪ I'd like to *amplify* [=*expand on*] my earlier remarks by providing some illustrations.

3 : to make (something) stronger ▪ using spices to *amplify* the flavors of the food

– **am•pli•fi•ca•tion** /,æmpləfə'keɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** [*noncount*] songs played with and without *amplification* ▪ the *amplification* of a signal ▪ The new rules require some *amplification*. [*count*] He started the meeting with an *amplification* of the new rules.

am•pli•tude /'æmplə,tu:d, *Brit* 'æmplə,tju:d/ *noun, pl* **-tudes** [*count, noncount*] *technical* : a measurement that indicates the movement or vibration of something (such as a sound wave or a radio wave)

am•pule (*US*) *or* **am•poule** /'æm,pju:l/ *noun, pl* **-pules** *or* **-poules** [*count*] : a small glass container used to hold a fluid that is injected into someone through a needle

am•pu•tate /'æmpjə,teɪt/ *verb* **-tates**; **-tat•ed**; **-tat•ing** [+ *obj*] *medical* : to cut off (part of a person's body) ▪ His arm/leg was badly injured and had to be *amputated*.

– **am•pu•ta•tion** /,æmpjə'teɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** [*count, noncount*]

am•pu•tee /,æmpjə'ti:/ *noun, pl* **-tees** [*count*] : a person who has had an arm or leg amputated

amuck *variant spelling of* AMOK

am•u•let /'æmjələt/ *noun, pl* **-lets** [*count*] : a small object worn to protect the person wearing it against bad things (such as illness, bad luck, etc.)

amuse /ə'mju:z/ *verb* **amus•es**; **amused**; **amus•ing**

1 : to make someone laugh or smile : to entertain (someone) in a light and pleasant way [+ *obj*] His silly jokes *amused* the audience. = The audience was *amused* by his silly jokes. [=the audience found his silly jokes funny/entertaining/amusing] ▪ It *amuses* me to think of how he looked when I last saw him. ▪ That joke doesn't *amuse* me. [=I don't think that joke is funny] ▪ The loss did not *amuse* the coach. [=the coach was not happy about the loss] [*no obj*] a funny story that never fails to *amuse* — see also AMUSING

2 [+ *obj*] : to get the attention of (someone) in a pleasant way as time passes ▪ We need to find something to *amuse* [=*entertain, occupy*] the children. = We need to find something to keep the children *amused*. [=we need to find something for the children to do so that they aren't bored] ▪ He ***amused himself*** with a game of solitaire.

– **amused** *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ A faintly *amused* grin appeared on her face. ▪ She looked slightly/very *amused* by/at his appearance. ▪ I was *amused* to learn the whole story. ▪ The coach was not *amused* [=was not pleased/happy] after the loss.

amuse•ment /ə'mju:zmənt/ *noun, pl* **-ments**

1 [*noncount*] : the feeling of being amused or entertained ▪ I'm reading this novel for *amusement*. ▪ People found great *amusement* in his strange behavior. = His strange behavior was a source of great *amusement*. [=people were very amused by his strange behavior] ▪ Several games were provided for the education and *amusement* of the children. ▪ Much ***to my amusement***, his confident prediction of victory turned out to be completely wrong. [=I was amused when his prediction turned out to be completely wrong]

2 [*count*] : something (such as an activity) that amuses or entertains someone — usually plural ▪ plays, movies, and other *amusements* [=*entertainments*] ▪ He had no time for *amusements* and hobbies. ▪ The park had many *amusements*, including two roller coasters.

amusement arcade *noun, pl* ~ **-cades** [*count*] *Brit* : ARCADE 3

amusement park *noun, pl* ~ **parks** [*count*] : a place that has many games and rides (such as roller coasters and merry-go-rounds) for entertainment

amus•ing /ə'mju:zɪŋ/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : causing laughter or enjoyment : funny or enjoyable ▪ There are some *amusing* [=*funny*] twists to the story. ▪ a mildly *amusing* remark ▪ He's one of the most *amusing* people I know. ▪ It was *amusing* to hear her tell the story.

– **amus•ing•ly** *adv* ▪ an *amusingly* written story ▪ an *amusingly* named invention

an /'æn, ən/ *indefinite article* : [2]A — used before words beginning with a vowel sound ▪ *an* oak ▪ *an* hour

an- see [2]A-

[1]-an *or* **-ian** *also* **-ean** *noun suffix* : someone or something that belongs to ▪ Americ*an* [=a person who lives in or is from America] ▪ Boston*ian* [=a person who lives in or is from Boston]

[2]-an *or* **-ian** *also* **-ean** *adj suffix*

1 : of or belonging to ▪ Americ*an*

2 : characteristic of : resembling ▪ Hercul*ean* [=resembling Hercules] ▪ Mozart*ean* [=characteristic of or resembling Mozart]

an•a•bol•ic steroid /,ænə'bɑ:lɪk-/ *noun, pl* ~ **-oids** [*count*] : a drug that is sometimes used illegally by athletes to help them become stronger and more muscular

anach•ro•nism /ə'nækrə,nɪzəm/ *noun, pl* **-nisms** [*count*]

1 : something (such as a word, an object, or an event) that is mistakenly placed in a time where it does not belong in a story, movie, etc. ▪ The novel is full of *anachronisms*.

2 : a person or a thing that seems to belong to the past and not to fit in the present ▪ He's an old-fashioned politician who is seen by many of his colleagues as an *anachronism*.

– **anach•ro•nis•tic** /ə,nækrə'nɪstɪk/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ a politician whose values seem somewhat *anachronistic*

– **anach•ro•nis•ti•cal•ly** /ə,nækrə'nɪstɪkli/ *adv*

an•a•con•da /,ænə'kɑ:ndə/ *noun, pl* **-das** [*count*] : a large South American snake that squeezes its victims to death

anaemia, anaemic *chiefly Brit spellings of* ANEMIA, ANEMIC

an•aer•o•bic /,ænə'roʊbɪk/ *adj* : not aerobic: such as **a** *of exercise* : strengthening muscles by forcing them to work very hard for a brief time ▪ *anaerobic* sports/training ▪ Weight lifting is an *anaerobic* exercise. **b** *technical* : not using oxygen ▪ Some bacteria are aerobic and others are *anaerobic*.

– **an•aer•o•bi•cal•ly** /,ænə'roʊbɪkli/ *adv* ▪ exercising *anaerobically*

anaesthesia, anaesthetic, anaesthetist, anaesthetize *Brit spellings of* ANESTHESIA, ANESTHETIC, ANESTHETIST, ANESTHETIZE

an•a•gram /'ænə,græm/ *noun, pl* **-grams** [*count*] : a word or phrase made by changing the order of the letters in another word or phrase ▪ The word "secure" is an *anagram* of "rescue."

anal /'eɪnl/ *adj*

1 *biology* : of, relating to, or located near the anus ▪ the *anal* area

2 [*more* ~; *most* ~] *informal* : extremely or overly neat, careful, or precise : ANAL-RETENTIVE ▪ He can be pretty *anal* about keeping his office neat.

– **anal•ly** *adv*

an•al•ge•sia /,ænl'ʤi:zə/ *noun* [*noncount*] *medical* : the loss of the ability to feel pain while conscious

an•al•ge•sic /,ænl'ʤi:zɪk/ *noun, pl* **-sics** [*count*] *medical* : a drug that relieves pain ▪ a mild/powerful *analgesic* [=*painkiller*]

– **analgesic** *adj* ▪ a drug with *analgesic* [=*painkilling*] effects ▪ an *analgesic* drug

an•a•log (*chiefly US*) *or chiefly Brit* **an•a•logue** /'ænə,lɑ:g/ *adj*

1 *technical* : of or relating to a device or process in which data is represented by physical quantities that change continuously ▪ Telephone lines carry data in *analog* form. ▪ It receives an *analog* video signal and converts it to a digital signal. ▪ an *analog* computer

2 *of a clock or watch* : having hour and minute hands ▪ an *analog* watch — compare DIGITAL 1

anal•o•gous /ə'næləgəs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *formal* : similar in some way ▪ I could not think of an *analogous* situation. — usually + *to* ▪ I could not think of a situation *analogous to* this one. ▪ The telescope's lenses are *analogous* [=*comparable*] *to* a person's glasses. ▪ Think of the process as

A

analogous to [=*like*] riding a bike.
– **anal•o•gous•ly** *adv*

an•a•logue *or US* **an•a•log** /ˈænəˌlɑːg/ *noun, pl* **-logues** *or US* **-logs** [*count*] *formal* : something that is similar to something else in design, origin, use, etc. : something that is analogous to something else ▪ a modern *analog* to what happened before ▪ the synthetic *analog* of a chemical found in a tropical tree ▪ a meat *analogue* such as tofu

anal•o•gy /əˈnælədʒi/ *noun, pl* **-gies**
1 [*count*] : a comparison of two things based on their being alike in some way ▪ He ***drew/made an analogy*** between flying a kite and fishing. [=he compared flying a kite to fishing; he said that flying a kite was like fishing]
2 [*noncount*] : the act of comparing two things that are alike in some way ▪ coining new words by *analogy* to/with existing ones [=coining new words so that they are formed in a way similar to old ones] ▪ reasoning by *analogy*

anal–re•ten•tive /ˌeɪnlɪˈtɛntɪv/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : extremely or overly neat, careful, or precise ▪ My *anal-retentive* brother keeps records of everything that happens in his life.

anal•y•sis /əˈnæləsɪs/ *noun, pl* **-y•ses** /-əˌsiːz/
1 a : a careful study of something to learn about its parts, what they do, and how they are related to each other [*count*] a scientific *analysis* of the data ▪ make/do/perform a chemical *analysis* of the soil ▪ a detailed *analysis* of the bone structure of horses [*noncount*] performing chemical *analysis* of the soil — see also SYSTEMS ANALYSIS **b** : an explanation of the nature and meaning of something [*count*] The newspaper printed an *analysis* of each candidate's positions. ▪ That's not a bad *analysis* of the situation. [*noncount*] It's a problem that requires careful *analysis*. ▪ a problem that ***defies analysis*** [=a problem that cannot be easily understood or explained]
2 [*noncount*] : PSYCHOANALYSIS ▪ He has been in/undergoing *analysis* for many years.
in the final analysis *also* ***in the last analysis*** : after considering everything — used for a final statement or judgment that is based on what is most important in a particular situation ▪ It was a difficult decision but, *in the final analysis*, it was the right choice.

an•a•lyst /ˈænələst/ *noun, pl* **-lysts** [*count*]
1 : a person who studies or analyzes something ▪ a financial/legal/political *analyst*
2 : PSYCHOANALYST ▪ My *analyst* felt that I was making good progress.

an•a•lyt•i•cal /ˌænəˈlɪtɪkəl/ *or* **an•a•lyt•ic** /ˌænəˈlɪtɪk/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]
1 : of or relating to the careful study of something : of or relating to analysis of something ▪ The office managers were asking for more *analytical* reports. ▪ *analytical* chemistry ▪ a powerful *analytical* tool to determine the nature and extent of climate change ▪ an *analytical* examination of the text
2 : having or showing skill in thinking or reasoning ▪ developing social and *analytical* skills in children ▪ She looked at the room with an *analytical* [=*critical*] eye and saw where the changes were made. ▪ She has a very quick *analytical* mind.
– **an•a•lyt•i•cal•ly** /ˌænəˈlɪtɪkli/ *adv*

an•a•lyze (*US*) *or Brit* **an•a•lyse** /ˈænəˌlaɪz/ *verb* **-lyz•es; -lyzed; -lyz•ing** [+ *obj*]
1 : to study (something) closely and carefully : to learn the nature and relationship of the parts of (something) by a close and careful examination ▪ *analyze* a problem ▪ The data was recorded and *analyzed* by computer. ▪ We took the sample to be chemically *analyzed* by a lab. ▪ Researchers are busy *analyzing* the results of the study. ▪ The bacteria were *analyzed* under a powerful microscope.
2 : to study the emotions and thoughts of (someone) by using psychoanalysis : PSYCHOANALYZE
– **an•a•lyz•able** (*US*) *or Brit* **an•a•lys•able** /ˈænəˌlaɪzəbəl/ *adj*

an•ar•chic /æˈnɑɚkɪk/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : not following or having any laws or rules : wild and uncontrolled ▪ *anarchic* behavior ▪ *anarchic* confusion
– **an•ar•chi•cal•ly** /æˈnɑɚkɪkli/ *adv* ▪ behaving *anarchically*

an•ar•chism /ˈænɚˌkɪzəm/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a belief that government and laws are not necessary

an•ar•chist /ˈænɚˌkɪst/ *noun, pl* **-chists** [*count*] : a person who believes that government and laws are not necessary
– **an•ar•chis•tic** /ˌænɚˈkɪstɪk/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ *anarchistic* rebels

an•ar•chy /ˈænɚki/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a situation of confusion and wild behavior in which the people in a country, group, organization, etc., are not controlled by rules or laws ▪ *Anarchy* reigned in the empire's remote provinces. ▪ When the teacher was absent, there was *anarchy* in the classroom.

anath•e•ma /əˈnæθəmə/ *noun, formal* : someone or something that is very strongly disliked — usually + *to* [*noncount*] ideas that are *anathema to* me [=ideas that I strongly dislike] ▪ a politician who is *anathema to* conservatives/liberals [*singular*] ideas that are an *anathema to* me

anat•o•my /əˈnætəmi/ *noun, pl* **-mies**
1 *biology* **a** [*noncount*] : the study of the structure of living things ▪ We had to take a class on/in *anatomy*. ▪ a professor of *anatomy* **b** : the parts that form a living thing (such as an animal or plant) [*noncount*] the *anatomy* of birds ▪ human *anatomy* and physiology [*count*] learning about the *anatomies* of different types of birds
2 [*count*] *informal* : a person's body — usually singular ▪ She wore an outfit that showed off various parts of her *anatomy*.
3 [*noncount*] : the parts or causes that form or create something ▪ learning about the *anatomy* of an earthquake
4 [*singular*] : a close study of the causes or parts of something ▪ The book is an *anatomy* of life in the inner city.
– **an•a•tom•i•cal** /ˌænəˈtɑːmɪkəl/ *also US* **an•a•tom•ic** /ˌænəˈtɑːmɪk/ *adj* ▪ *anatomical* similarities between dinosaurs and birds ▪ the *anatomical* structure of the eye – **an•a•tom•i•cal•ly** /ˌænəˈtɑːmɪkli/ *adv* ▪ ***anatomically correct*** dolls [=dolls that have body parts like those of actual people] – **anat•o•mist** /əˈnætəmɪst/ *noun, pl* **-mists** [*count*] ▪ a noted *anatomist* [=a scientist who studies anatomy]

-ance /əns/ *noun suffix* : the action or process of doing something ▪ avoid*ance* ▪ perform*ance* ▪ accept*ance*

an•ces•tor /ˈænˌsɛstɚ/ *noun, pl* **-tors** [*count*]
1 : a person who was in someone's family in past times : one of the people from whom a person is descended ▪ My *ancestors* came to America during the 1800s. ▪ Her *ancestors* were great sea captains.
2 : an animal in the past from which a modern animal developed ▪ an ancient animal that was the *ancestor* of the modern horse
3 : something in the past from which something else has developed ▪ The museum included an exhibit showing *ancestors* of the modern computer. ▪ several languages that are derived from a common *ancestor* ▪ Latin is the *ancestor* of Italian and French.
– **an•ces•tral** /ænˈsɛstrəl/ *adj* ▪ We returned to our *ancestral* home [=the home of our ancestors] after many years.

an•ces•try /ˈænˌsɛstri/ *noun, pl* **-tries** : a person's ancestors : the people who were in your family in past times [*noncount*] They claim to be of noble *ancestry*. ▪ an Englishman of German *ancestry* = an Englishman who is German by *ancestry* ▪ a person of unknown *ancestry* ▪ She claims to be able to trace her *ancestry* all the way back to the earliest settlers. [*count*] They have different *ancestries*.

[1]an•chor /ˈæŋkɚ/ *noun, pl* **-chors** [*count*]
1 : a heavy device that is attached to a boat or ship by a rope or chain and that is thrown into the water to hold the boat or ship in place ▪ The ship ***dropped anchor*** in a secluded harbor. ▪ Several yachts stood/sat/rode ***at anchor*** [=were held in place by an anchor] in the harbor. ▪ The crew ***weighed anchor*** [=lifted the anchor] and prepared to sail.
2 a : a person or thing that provides strength and support ▪ a star quarterback who has been the *anchor* [=the most important part] of a football team's offense for many years ▪ He described his wife as the emotional *anchor* of his life. ▪ a local bank that has been the financial *anchor* of the community **b** : a large store that attracts customers and other businesses to an area (such as a shopping mall) ▪ an ***anchor store***
3 *chiefly US* : someone who reads the news on a television broadcast : an anchorman or anchorwoman ▪ a television news *anchor*

[2]anchor *verb* **-chors; -chored; -chor•ing**
1 : to keep a ship or boat from moving by using an anchor [+ *obj*] They *anchored* the ship in the bay. [*no obj*] The ship *anchored* in the bay.
2 [+ *obj*] : to connect (something) to a solid base : to hold (something) firmly in place — usually used as *(be) anchored* ▪ The cables of the bridge *are anchored* to the hillside. — often used figuratively with *in* ▪ Her authority *is anchored in* more than 20 years of experience.
3 [+ *obj*] : to be the strongest and most important part of (something) ▪ a star quarterback who has *anchored* the team's offense for many years

4 [+ *obj*] *US* : to read the news on (a television broadcast) : to be the anchorman or anchorwoman on (a news program) ▪ She *anchors* the nightly news broadcast.

an•chor•age /ˈæŋkərɪʤ/ *noun, pl* **-ag•es**
1 : a place where boats and ships are anchored [*count*] a safe/secluded *anchorage* [*noncount*] an area of safe *anchorage*
2 : something that provides a strong hold or connection [*noncount*] A heavy metal ring provides *anchorage* for the cable. [*count*] The ring serves as a secure *anchorage*.

an•cho•rite /ˈæŋkəˌraɪt/ *noun, pl* **-rites** [*count*] : a religious person who lives apart from other people

an•chor•man /ˈæŋkɚˌmæn/ *noun, pl* **-men** /-ˌmɛn/ [*count*] *chiefly US* : a man who reads the news and introduces the reports of other broadcasters on a television news program ▪ a network *anchorman*

an•chor•wom•an /ˈæŋkɚˌwʊmən/ *noun, pl* **-wom•en** /-ˌwɪmən/ [*count*] *chiefly US* : a woman who reads the news and introduces the reports of other broadcasters on a television news program ▪ a network *anchorwoman*

an•cho•vy /ˈænˌʧoʊvi/ *noun, pl* **an•cho•vies** *also* **ancho-vy** [*count*] : a small fish that has a salty flavor ▪ a salad topped with garlic and *anchovies* ▪ pizza with *anchovies*

an•cient /ˈeɪnʃənt/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]
1 : very old : having lived or existed for a very long time ▪ The people in the village still observe the *ancient* customs/traditions of their ancestors. ▪ a grove of *ancient* oak trees — often used in an exaggerated way to describe an old machine, person, etc. ▪ We got a ride in an *ancient* truck. ▪ an *ancient* barn ▪ I never thought I'd feel *ancient* at age 31. ▪ She finally decided to replace her *ancient* computer with something more modern and up to date.
2 : of, coming from, or belonging to a time that was long ago in the past ▪ The practice was more common in *ancient* times than it is now. ▪ life in *ancient* Egypt/Rome/Greece/China ▪ the gods of the *ancient* Romans ▪ *ancient* artifacts ▪ She studied both *ancient* and modern history. ✧ In informal use, something that happened long ago and that is not important any more is ***ancient history***. ▪ Our relationship is *ancient history*. ▪ Forget about the problems we've had in the past. They're *ancient history*. ***synonyms*** see ¹OLD
– **an•cient•ly** /ˈeɪnʃəntli/ *adv* ▪ a drink that was used *anciently* [=in ancient times] as a love potion

an•cients /ˈeɪnʃənts/ *noun*
the ancients : the people who lived in ancient times : the people of ancient Greece and Rome ▪ a temple built by *the ancients* ▪ the gods of *the ancients*

an•cil•lary /ˈænsəˌleri, *Brit* ænˈsɪləri/ *adj, formal* : providing something additional to a main part or function : EXTRA ▪ The company hopes to boost its sales by releasing *ancillary* products. ▪ *ancillary* services/expenses — sometimes + *to* ▪ These expenses are *ancillary to* the basic cost.

-an•cy /ənsi/ *noun suffix* : the quality or state of being (something) — used to form nouns from adjectives that end in *-ant* ▪ dorm*ancy* ▪ tru*ancy* ▪ buoy*ancy*

and /ˈænd, ənd, ən/ *conj*
1 — used to join words or groups of words ▪ We have ice cream *and* cake for dessert. ▪ He's feeling strong *and* healthy. ▪ She answered quickly *and* confidently. ▪ He swerved *and* avoided an accident. ▪ She's the club's secretary *and* treasurer. ▪ He walked into the room *and* sat down at the table. ▪ an actor who is tall, dark, *and* handsome
2 : added to : plus ▪ 2 *and* 2 equals 4.
3 a — used to describe an action that is repeated or that occurs for a long time ▪ The dog barked *and* barked. ▪ She cried *and* cried. **b** — used to repeat a word for emphasis ▪ You *and* you alone are responsible for correcting these errors. ▪ There were hundreds *and* hundreds of people there. ▪ The project is becoming more *and* more expensive. ▪ The work is getting harder *and* harder.
4 a — used to describe actions that occur at the same time ▪ They walked *and* talked. ▪ We sat *and* waited for hours. **b** — used to describe an action that occurs after another action ▪ They drove five miles *and* stopped to eat. ▪ He promised to come *and* didn't. **c** — used to describe an action that occurs after and is caused by another action ▪ I told him to go *and* he went.
5 — used after *go, come, try, write*, etc., to indicate the purpose of an action ▪ Why don't you go/come *and* see her? [=go/come to see her] ▪ I'll try *and* do it. [=I'll try to do it] ▪ Promise that you'll write *and* tell me [=write to tell me] about your vacation.
6 — used to indicate a choice ▪ You have to choose between him *and* me.
7 — used to start a new sentence or clause that continues or adds to a previous sentence or clause ▪ These problems have been occurring for many years, as everyone acknowledges. *And* of course they are going to continue unless something is done. ▪ Critics of the administration—*and* there many of them—have objected to the new plan. ▪ "Well, I've spoken to him . . ." "*And*?" "*And* he said yes!"
8 a — used after *hundred* and *thousand* when saying a number aloud ▪ a/one hundred *and* twenty-four [=124] ▪ two thousand *and* sixty-five [=2,065] **b** — used when saying aloud a number that is followed by a fraction ▪ seven *and* three quarters [=7¾] ▪ One *and* a half years have passed since then. = A year *and* a half has passed since then.
9 — used to indicate the point where two streets meet or cross ▪ a restaurant located at (the corner of) Main Street *and* First Avenue

an•dan•te /ˌɑːnˈdɑːnteɪ/ *noun, pl* **-tes** [*count*] : a musical composition or a part of a musical composition that is played somewhat slowly
– **andante** *adj or adv* ▪ an *andante* movement ▪ This piece should be played *andante*.

and•iron /ˈændˌajɚn/ *noun, pl* **-irons** [*count*] : either one of a pair of metal supports that hold the wood in a fireplace — usually plural

an•drog•y•nous /ænˈdrɑːʤənəs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]
1 : having both male and female characteristics or qualities ▪ an *androgynous* rock star ▪ *androgynous* models/dancers
2 : suitable for both men and women ▪ *androgynous* clothes
– **an•drog•y•ny** /ænˈdrɑːʤəni/ *noun* [*noncount*]

an•droid /ˈænˌdroɪd/ *noun, pl* **-droids** [*count*] *in stories* : a robot that looks like a person

an•ec•dote /ˈænɪkˌdoʊt/ *noun, pl* **-dotes** [*count*] : a short story about an interesting or funny event or occurrence ▪ He told us all sorts of humorous *anecdotes* about his childhood.
– **an•ec•dot•al** /ˌænɪkˈdoʊtl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ I enjoyed the book's *anecdotal* style. ▪ His conclusions are not supported by data; they are based only on ***anecdotal evidence***. [=evidence in the form of stories that people tell about what has happened to them] – **an•ec•dot•al•ly** *adv* ▪ *Anecdotally*, doctors report an increase in the disease.

ane•mia (*US*) *or Brit* **anae•mia** /əˈniːmijə/ *noun* [*noncount*] *medical* : a condition in which a person has fewer red blood cells than normal and feels very weak and tired — see also SICKLE-CELL ANEMIA

ane•mic (*US*) *or Brit* **anae•mic** /əˈniːmɪk/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]
1 *medical* : relating to or suffering from anemia ▪ The doctor told me I was slightly *anemic*.
2 : not strong, forceful, or impressive : WEAK ▪ The band played an *anemic* rendition of a classic love song. ▪ Investors are worried about the stock's *anemic* performance. ▪ Officials worried about *anemic* attendance at the shows. ▪ Sales rose an *anemic* 0.5 percent last quarter.
– **ane•mi•cal•ly** (*US*) *or Brit* **anae•mi•cal•ly** /əˈniːmɪkli/ *adv* ▪ The economy grew *anemically* last year.

anem•o•ne /əˈnɛməni/ *noun, pl* **-nes** [*count*]
1 : a type of garden plant that has white, purple, or red flowers
2 : SEA ANEMONE

an•es•the•sia (*US*) *or Brit* **an•aes•the•sia** /ˌænəsˈθiːʒə/ *noun* [*noncount*] *medical* : loss of feeling in a person's body or part of the body through the use of drugs ▪ The patient was given an injection to induce *anesthesia*. ▪ patients who are under ***general anesthesia*** [=patients who have been given drugs that make them unconscious and unable to feel pain] ▪ The doctor removed the mole while the patient was under ***local anesthesia***. [=the patient had been given drugs that took away feeling in only the part of the body where the doctor worked]

an•es•the•si•ol•o•gist /ˌænəsˌθiːziˈɑːləʤɪst/ *noun, pl* **-gists** [*count*] *US, medical* : a doctor who specializes in anesthesia and anesthetics : ANESTHETIST

an•es•thet•ic (*US*) *or Brit* **an•aes•thet•ic** /ˌænəsˈθɛtɪk/ *noun, pl* **-ics** [*count*] *medical* : a drug that causes a person to lose feeling and to feel no pain in part or all of the body ▪ The doctor gave him the stitches without an *anesthetic*. ▪ The surgery required a ***general anesthetic***. [=a drug that makes a person unconscious and unable to feel pain] ▪ a ***local anes-***

A

thetic [=a drug that makes a part of the body unable to feel pain]
– **anesthetic** (*US*) *or Brit* **anaesthetic** *adj* ▪ the *anesthetic* properties of a drug

anes·the·tist (*US*) *or Brit* **anaes·the·tist** /əˈnɛsθətɪst/ *noun, pl* **-tists** [*count*] *medical* : a doctor or nurse who gives an anesthetic to a patient

anes·the·tize (*US*) *or Brit* **anaes·the·tize** *or* **anaes·the·tise** /əˈnɛsθəˌtaɪz/ *verb* **-tiz·es**; **-tized**; **-tiz·ing** [+ *obj*] *medical* : to give drugs to (a patient) so that no pain can be felt : to give an anesthetic to (a patient) ▪ The doctor *anesthetized* the patient by/with an intravenous injection. ▪ She was *anesthetized* before the operation.

anew /əˈnuː, *Brit* əˈnjuː/ *adv, somewhat formal*
1 : over again : once more ▪ He demonstrated *anew* that he's not a good leader. ▪ These problems must be dealt with *anew*. ▪ The process begins *anew* each spring. ▪ Let's stop for now and start *anew* [=*afresh, again*] in the morning.
2 : in a new or different form ▪ The poem has been translated *anew* for this new book.

an·gel /ˈeɪnʤəl/ *noun, pl* **an·gels** [*count*]
1 : a spiritual being that serves especially as a messenger from God or as a guardian of human beings ▪ an *angel* from heaven ▪ a merciful *angel* = an *angel* of mercy ▪ the *angel* of death [=an angel that comes when someone dies] — see also GUARDIAN ANGEL
2 *informal* : a person (such as a child) who is very good, kind, beautiful, etc. ▪ Your son is such an *angel*! ▪ He's not a bad kid, but he's no *angel*. ▪ Be an *angel* and get me a cup of tea, would you?
– **an·gel·ic** /ænˈʤɛlɪk/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ a child's *angelic* face ▪ an *angelic* voice ▪ *angelic* behavior [=very good behavior] – **an·gel·i·cal·ly** /ænˈʤɛlɪkli/ *adv* ▪ an *angelically* behaved/beautiful child ▪ She smiled *angelically*.

angel food cake *noun, pl* ~ **cakes** [*count, noncount*] *US* : a soft and light white cake — compare DEVIL'S FOOD CAKE

[1]an·ger /ˈæŋgɚ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a strong feeling of being upset or annoyed because of something wrong or bad : the feeling that makes someone want to hurt other people, to shout, etc. : the feeling of being angry ▪ He couldn't hide his *anger* with/at us. ▪ You could hear the *anger* in his voice. ▪ The group expressed/vented its *anger* over/about the company's arrogance. ▪ He said that he had/felt no *anger* towards the person who shot him. ▪ He never raised his voice in *anger*. ▪ She was shaking/trembling in/with *anger*. ▪ He is not easily moved to *anger*. [=he does not become angry easily]

> ***synonyms*** ANGER, RAGE, FURY, and WRATH mean a strong feeling caused by displeasure. ANGER is a general word that applies to many different levels of emotion that may or may not be shown. ▪ She kept her *anger* inside herself. RAGE suggests loss of control because of great anger. ▪ They were screaming with *rage*. FURY suggests a violent anger. ▪ In their *fury* they smashed all the dishes. WRATH is a slightly old-fashioned word that suggests a desire to punish someone or to get revenge for something. ▪ In his *wrath* the king ordered the rebels executed.

[2]anger *verb* **-gers**; **-gered**; **-ger·ing** [+ *obj*] : to make (someone) angry ▪ They were shocked and *angered* by the company's arrogance. ▪ He was *angered* to learn that he had been fired. ▪ It *angered* me that she would say something like that. ▪ He's a gentle man who's not easily *angered*.

an·gi·na /ænˈʤaɪnə/ *noun* [*noncount*] *medical* : a heart disease that causes brief periods of intense chest pain ▪ an attack of *angina* = an *angina* attack — called also *angina pectoris*

anglais see COR ANGLAIS

anglaise see CRÈME ANGLAISE

[1]an·gle /ˈæŋgəl/ *noun, pl* **an·gles** [*count*]
1 a : the difference between the direction of two lines or surfaces that come together : the space or shape formed when two lines or surfaces meet each other ▪ The two lines form a sharp *angle*. = The two lines meet/intersect at a sharp *angle* (to each other). ▪ The two lines meet at a 30-degree *angle* to each other. = There is a 30-degree *angle* between the two lines. ▪ The lines are at sharp *angles* to each other. — see picture at GEOMETRY; see also RIGHT ANGLE **b** — used to describe a surface that is not level ▪ The hill slopes down/up at an *angle* of about 30 degrees. **c** — used to describe something that leans or goes to the side rather than straight up or directly forward ▪ The pole stood ***at an angle***. ▪ The road goes off ***at a sharp/slight angle*** to the right/left. ▪ The rays of light shone through the window *at an angle*.
2 : the position from which something is approached, looked at, etc. ▪ Critics love the clever camera *angles* the director used in the film. ▪ She took pictures of the same scene from several different *angles*. ▪ The soldiers were being attacked from every *angle*.
3 : a way of thinking about, describing, or discussing something ▪ We need to approach the problem from a new/different *angle*. ▪ They considered the question from all *angles*. ▪ The reporter tried to work that *angle* into his story.
4 *chiefly US, informal* **a** : a secret and often improper reason for doing something ▪ I don't trust that guy, but I can't figure out what his *angle* is yet. **b** : a clever and often improper way of doing or getting something ▪ a salesman who's always looking for an *angle* [=looking for a way to convince people to buy the things he is selling]

[2]angle *verb* **angles**; **an·gled**; **an·gling** /ˈæŋglɪŋ/
1 : to turn, move, or point something so that it is not straight or flat [+ *obj*] One spotlight was put high in the corner and *angled* [=*pointed*] down toward the floor. ▪ The seats in the theater were *angled* so that we were looking almost straight up. ▪ The road was *angled* down toward the river. [*no obj*] The road *angled* [=*sloped*] down toward the river.
2 [+ *obj*] : to present (something, such as a news story) in a particular way or from a particular point of view ▪ You should try to *angle* the story so that it appeals to younger readers. — often used as *(be) angled* ▪ The story *was angled* to appeal to younger readers.
– compare [3]ANGLE

[3]angle *verb* **angles**; **angled**; **angling** [*no obj*]
1 : to fish with a hook and line ▪ go *angling* for trout — see also ANGLER, ANGLING
2 *informal* : to try to get what you want in a clever or indirect way ▪ She's been *angling* to get a promotion. — usually + *for* ▪ She's *angling for* a promotion. ▪ They're all *angling for* a place on the committee.
– compare [2]ANGLE

angle bracket *noun, pl* ~ **-ets** [*count*] : either one of a pair of punctuation marks ⟨ ⟩ used to enclose written material

an·gler /ˈæŋglɚ/ *noun, pl* **-glers** [*count*] : a person who catches fish for pleasure : FISHERMAN ▪ a skilled *angler*

An·gli·can /ˈæŋglɪkən/ *noun, pl* **-cans** [*count*] : a member of the Church of England
– **Anglican** *adj* ▪ an *Anglican* bishop ▪ the *Anglican* Church

An·gli·can·ism /ˈæŋglɪkəˌnɪzəm/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the beliefs and practices of the Church of England

an·gli·cize *also Brit* **an·gli·cise** /ˈæŋgləˌsaɪz/ *verb* **-ciz·es**; **-cized**; **-ciz·ing** [+ *obj*] : to make (something or someone) English or more English ▪ *anglicize* a French word/name ▪ the word's *anglicized* pronunciation/spelling ▪ The cookbook *anglicized* many exotic dishes to make them easier to prepare.
– **an·gli·ci·za·tion** *also Brit* **an·gli·ci·sa·tion** /ˌæŋgləsəˈzeɪʃən, *Brit* ˌæŋgləˌsaɪˈzeɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*]

an·gling /ˈæŋglɪŋ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the activity or sport of fishing for pleasure ▪ an *angling* adventure/expedition in the mountains

An·glo /ˈæŋgloʊ/ *noun, pl* **An·glos** [*count*] *chiefly US* : a white person who lives in the U.S. and is not Hispanic ▪ a committee with a mixture of blacks, *Anglos*, and Hispanics — often used before another noun ▪ the town's *Anglo* population

An·glo- *combining form* : English or British ▪ *Anglo*-American ▪ *Anglo*phile

An·glo–Amer·i·can /ˌæŋgloʊəˈmerəkən/ *noun, pl* **-cans** [*count*] : an American whose family comes originally from England
– **Anglo–American** *adj*

An·glo·phile /ˈæŋgləˌfajəl/ *noun, pl* **-philes** [*count*] : a non-English person who greatly likes and admires England and English things

An·glo·phobe /ˈæŋgləˌfoʊb/ *noun, pl* **-phobes** [*count*] : a person who dislikes England and English things
– **An·glo·pho·bic** /ˌæŋgləˈfoʊbɪk/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

An·glo·phone /ˈæŋgləˌfoʊn/ *adj* : having English as the main language ▪ the city's *Anglophone* population ▪ an *Anglophone* neighborhood in a French-speaking country
– **Anglophone** *noun, pl* **-phones** [*count*] ▪ a neighborhood that includes both *Anglophones* [=people who speak English as their main language] and Francophones

An·glo–Sax·on /ˌæŋgloʊˈsæksən/ *noun, pl* **-ons**

1 a [*count*] : a member of the Germanic people who conquered Britain in the fifth century A.D. **b** [*noncount*] : the language of the Anglo-Saxons : OLD ENGLISH ▪ There are many words from *Anglo-Saxon* that survive in English today.
2 [*count*] : a person whose ancestors were English
– **Anglo–Saxon** *adj* ▪ an *Anglo-Saxon* person ▪ a white *Anglo-Saxon* Protestant ▪ an *Anglo-Saxon* word

an•go•ra /æŋ'gorə/ *noun, pl* **-ras**
1 [*noncount*] : a kind of soft yarn or wool that is made from the hair of the Angora goat or the Angora rabbit — often used before another noun ▪ an *angora* scarf/sweater
2 [*count*] : a type of cat, goat, or rabbit that has long soft hair — usually used before another noun ▪ an *Angora* rabbit

an•gry /'æŋgri/ *adj* **an•gri•er**; **-est** [*also more ~; most ~*]
1 a : filled with anger : having a strong feeling of being upset or annoyed ▪ I've never seen her look so *angry*. ▪ An *angry* crowd gathered outside the courthouse. ▪ I was *angry* that he had forgotten my birthday. ▪ What made you so *angry*? ▪ He got/grew/became *angry* when he found out about their plans. — often + *at* or *with* ▪ He was *angry at/with* her for staying out so late. ▪ I was *angry at/with* him for forgetting my birthday. — often + *about* or *over* ▪ She's still *angry about/over* the way she's been treated. ▪ Students are *angry about/over* the increase in tuition. ▪ What is she so *angry* [=(*US*) *mad*] *about*? **b** : showing anger ▪ He sent an *angry* letter to the company president. ▪ They had an argument and exchanged some *angry* words. ▪ She gave me an *angry* look.
2 *literary* : seeming to show anger : threatening or menacing ▪ The sea/sky grew *angry*. [=*dark and stormy*] ▪ *angry* clouds
3 : very red and painful ▪ an *angry* rash/sore/scratch
– **an•gri•ly** /'æŋgrəli/ *adv* ▪ He slammed the door *angrily*. ▪ She glared at us *angrily*.

angst /'ɑ:ŋst, 'æŋst/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a strong feeling of being worried or nervous : a feeling of anxiety about your life or situation ▪ a film about teenage *angst*

an•guish /'æŋgwɪʃ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : extreme suffering, grief, or pain ▪ tears/cries of *anguish* ▪ He experienced the *anguish* of divorce after 10 years of marriage. ▪ mental *anguish* ▪ They watched ***in anguish*** as fire spread through the house.
– **an•guished** /'æŋgwɪʃt/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] ▪ She looked at me with an *anguished* expression. ▪ I will never forget their *anguished* cries.

an•gu•lar /'æŋgjələ/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*]
1 : having little flesh so that the shapes of your bones can be seen : thin and bony ▪ He has an *angular* face. ▪ She's a tall, *angular* girl.
2 : having one or more angles ▪ The house is low and *angular*. ▪ an *angular* mountain peak
– **an•gu•lar•i•ty** /ˌæŋgjə'lerəti/ *noun* [*noncount*]

[1]an•i•mal /'ænəməl/ *noun, pl* **-mals** [*count*]
1 : a living thing that is not a human being or plant ▪ people and *animals* ▪ the *animals* in the zoo ▪ the plants and *animals* of the forest ▪ She loves all kinds of *animals*. ▪ pigs, chickens, and other ***farm animals*** [=animals that live on a farm] — often used to refer specifically to mammals as distinguished from other living things (such as fish and birds) ▪ the plants, birds, and *animals* of the forest ▪ furry little *animals* ▪ wild/domestic *animals* — see also PACK ANIMAL, STUFFED ANIMAL
2 : any living thing that is not a plant ▪ Fish, birds, insects, reptiles, mammals, and human beings are all *animals*. ▪ Dogs, like humans, are ***social animals***. [=animals that live in groups] ▪ studying the habits of ***the human animal*** [=the habits of human beings; the habits of people in general]
3 : a person who behaves in a wild, aggressive, or unpleasant way ▪ He's a real *animal*. ▪ You're all behaving like a bunch of *animals*. — see also PARTY ANIMAL
4 *somewhat informal* : a person or thing of a particular kind ▪ You want someone who will love you and give you everything you want but ask nothing in return? Let's face it, there's ***no such animal***! [=there is no person who will do that] ▪ Everyone wants a computer that always works perfectly, but there's *no such animal*. ▪ The sport has changed. It's a very/completely ***different animal*** today. [=it's very/completely different today] ▪ His wife has always been a ***political animal***. [=has always been very interested in politics]

[2]animal *adj*
1 *always used before a noun* **a** : of or relating to animals ▪ studying *animal* behavior ▪ several different plant and *animal* species ▪ the other members of the ***animal kingdom*** [=a basic group of living things that includes all animals] ▪ She's a supporter of ***animal rights***. [=she believes that all animals should be treated in a fair and kind way] **b** : coming from the bodies of animals ▪ *animal* cells/bones/fat/skin ▪ milk, meat, and other *animal* products
2 : of or relating to the body and not to the mind ▪ Their attraction was *animal* [=*physical*] rather than intellectual or spiritual. ▪ *animal* instincts/passion/desires ▪ People were shocked by the *animal* brutality of the attack. ✧ ***Animal magnetism*** is a strong physical or sexual attractiveness. ▪ Women were drawn to his *animal magnetism*. [=*sex appeal*]

animal cracker *noun, pl* **~ -ers** [*count*] : a small cookie that is shaped like an animal

animal husbandry *noun* [*noncount*] : a kind of farming in which people raise animals for meat, milk, eggs, etc.

[1]an•i•mate /'ænəmət/ *adj, formal* : having life : alive or living ▪ The lecture was about ancient worship of *animate* and inanimate objects. — opposite INANIMATE

[2]an•i•mate /'ænəˌmeɪt/ *verb* **-mates**; **-mat•ed**; **-mat•ing** [+ *obj*]
1 : to make (someone or something) lively or excited ▪ A smile *animated* [=*brightened*] his face. ▪ The writer's humor *animates* the novel.
2 : to make (something, such as a drawing) appear to move by creating a series of drawings, pictures, etc., and showing them quickly one after another : to make (something) appear to move by using the process of animation ▪ The film's very realistic dinosaurs were *animated* on computers.

an•i•mat•ed /'ænəˌmeɪtəd/ *adj*
1 [*more ~; most ~*] : full of life and energy ▪ He became more *animated* [=*excited, lively*] as he described the project. ▪ She gave an *animated* description of the project. ▪ After dinner, the discussion got more *animated*.
2 : produced by the creation of a series of drawings, pictures, etc., that are shown quickly one after another : produced through the process of animation ▪ an *animated* film/cartoon ▪ Many movies for kids are *animated* rather than live-action. ▪ *animated* characters
– **an•i•mat•ed•ly** *adv* ▪ She spoke *animatedly* about her son's soccer game.

an•i•ma•tion /ˌænə'meɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions**
1 [*noncount*] : a lively or excited quality ▪ He talked ***with animation*** [=in an excited or animated way] about his vacation.
2 a [*noncount*] : a way of making a movie by using a series of drawings, computer graphics, or photographs of objects (such as puppets or models) that are slightly different from one another and that when viewed quickly one after another create the appearance of movement ▪ The *animation* for the film took over two years to complete. ▪ The studio used computer *animation* for some of the special effects. — compare LIVE ACTION **b** [*count*] : a movie or brief scene that is made this way ▪ The Web site has hundreds of *animations* you can download.
– see also SUSPENDED ANIMATION

an•i•ma•tor /'ænəˌmeɪtə/ *noun, pl* **-tors** [*count*] : a person who creates animated movies and cartoons

an•i•me /'ænəˌmeɪ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a style of animation that was created in Japan and that uses colorful images, strong characters, and stories that have a lot of action

an•i•mism /'ænəˌmɪzəm/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the belief that all plants, animals, and objects have spirits

an•i•mos•i•ty /ˌænə'mɑ:səti/ *noun, pl* **-ties** : a strong feeling of dislike or hatred [*noncount*] There has always been *animosity* [=*hostility*] between them. [=they have always disliked each other] ▪ He felt nothing but *animosity* toward his boss. [=he disliked his boss very much] [*count*] We put aside our personal *animosities* so that we could work together.

an•i•mus /'ænəməs/ *noun, formal* : a strong feeling of dislike or hatred [*noncount*] my *animus* [=(more commonly) *animosity*] towards/against the organization [*singular*] She felt an *animus* against them.

an•ise /'ænəs/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a plant with seeds that are used in cooking and to flavor candies and alcoholic drinks

ani•seed /'ænəsˌsi:d/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the seed of the anise plant

an•is•ette /ˌænə'sɛt/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a sweet alcoholic drink that is flavored with aniseed

an•kle /'æŋkəl/ *noun, pl* **an•kles** [*count*] : the joint where the foot joins the leg ▪ I hurt/twisted/sprained/broke my *ankle*. ▪ *ankle* boots [=boots that cover only the foot and ankle] — see pictures at FOOT, HUMAN

ankle sock *noun, pl* **~ socks** [*count*] : a short sock that reaches slightly above the ankle — called also (*US*) *anklet*; see color picture on page C13

A

an•klet /ˈæŋklət/ *noun, pl* **-klets** [*count*]
1 : a band, ring, or chain that is worn around the ankle — called also *ankle bracelet*
2 *US* **:** ANKLE SOCK

an•nals /ˈænəlz/ *noun* [*plural*]
1 : historical records — usually used in the phrase ***in the annals of*** ▪ This event will go down *in the annals of* sports/war/medicine. [=will be remembered as part of the history of sports/war/medicine] ▪ He became a major figure *in the annals of* justice.
2 : records of the activities of an organization — often used in the titles of publications ▪ She used a quote from the *Annals of Family Medicine*.

an•neal /əˈniːl/ *verb* **-neals**; **-nealed**; **-neal•ing** [+ *obj*] *technical* **:** to heat and then slowly cool (metal, glass, etc.) in order to make it stronger

[1]an•nex /əˈnɛks/ *verb* **-nex•es**; **-nexed**; **-nex•ing** [+ *obj*] **:** to add (an area or region) to a country, state, etc. **:** to take control of (a territory or place) ▪ The United States *annexed* Texas in 1845. ▪ The government planned to *annex* the islands.
– an•nex•a•tion /ˌænɛkˈseɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** [*count, noncount*]

[2]an•nex (*chiefly US*) *or Brit* **an•nexe** /ˈæˌnɛks/ *noun, pl* **-nex•es** [*count*]
1 : a building that is attached to or near a larger building and usually used as part of it ▪ The addition will be used as an *annex* to the library. ▪ We store our old files in the *annex*.
2 *chiefly Brit* **:** a section or statement added at the end of a document **:** APPENDIX ▪ an *annexe* to the document

an•ni•hi•late /əˈnajəˌleɪt/ *verb* **-lates**; **-lat•ed**; **-lat•ing** [+ *obj*]
1 : to destroy (something or someone) completely ▪ Bombs *annihilated* the city. ▪ The enemy troops were *annihilated*.
2 : to defeat (someone) completely ▪ He *annihilated* his opponent in the last election.
– an•ni•hi•la•tion /əˌnajəˈleɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ The regime is facing *annihilation*. ▪ the *annihilation* of the city

an•ni•ver•sa•ry /ˌænəˈvərsəri/ *noun, pl* **-ries** [*count*] **:** a date that is remembered or celebrated because a special or notable event occurred on that date in a previous year ▪ the *anniversary* of the invasion/attack ▪ We are celebrating our fifth (wedding) *anniversary* this year. = We are celebrating the fifth *anniversary* of our wedding this year. ▪ The exhibit will close on the 100th *anniversary* of the artist's death. — often used before another noun ▪ an *anniversary* party/celebration/dinner

an•no•tate /ˈænəˌteɪt/ *verb* **-tates**; **-tat•ed**; **-tat•ing** [+ *obj*] **:** to add notes or comments to (a text, book, drawing, etc.) ▪ He *annotated* the text at several places. ▪ *annotate* a list
– annotated *adj* ▪ a fully *annotated* diagram

an•no•ta•tion /ˌænəˈteɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions**
1 [*count*] **:** a note added to a text, book, drawing, etc., as a comment or explanation ▪ Without the *annotations*, the diagram would be hard to understand.
2 [*noncount*] **:** the act of adding notes or comments to something **:** the act of annotating something ▪ the author's *annotation* of the diagram

an•nounce /əˈnaʊns/ *verb* **-nounc•es**; **-nounced**; **-nounc•ing**
1 [+ *obj*] **:** to make (something) known in a public or formal way **:** to officially tell people about (something) ▪ The government *announced* a cut in taxes. ▪ They *announced* plans to move the company out of the state. ▪ The company president has *announced* her retirement. ▪ Their engagement was formally *announced* in the newspaper. — often + *that* ▪ The government *announced that* there would be a cut in taxes. ▪ A voice on the loudspeaker *announced that* the store was closing in 10 minutes. — sometimes used figuratively ▪ The sound of the door slamming *announced* his departure. [=I knew he had left when I heard the door slam]
2 [+ *obj*] **:** to say (something) in a loud and definite way ▪ When everyone was sitting down, she abruptly *announced* [=*declared*] (to us) her intention to quit school. ▪ He suddenly stood up and *announced*, "I'm leaving." = He suddenly stood up and *announced* that he was leaving.
3 [+ *obj*] **:** to say in a formal or official way that something or someone has arrived or is present or ready ▪ She *announced* dinner [=said that dinner was ready] promptly at six o'clock. ▪ Don't enter the president's office until you've been *announced*. [=until the president has been told that you are there] ▪ A man in a tuxedo *announced* each guest [=loudly told everyone the guests' names] as they arrived. ▪ We only had to wait a few minutes before our flight was *announced* [=*called*] over the loudspeaker.
4 [*no obj*] *US* **:** to say that you are a candidate for a political office ▪ He is expected to *announce* for President [=to say that he is going to run for President] tomorrow.
5 [+ *obj*] *US* **:** to describe (a sports event) on radio or television **:** to be the announcer for (a sports event) ▪ Do you know who's going to *announce* tonight's game?

an•nounce•ment /əˈnaʊnsmənt/ *noun, pl* **-ments**
1 [*count*] **:** a written or spoken statement that tells people about something **:** public or formal words that announce something ▪ Many people were surprised by the government's *announcement* that there will be a cut in taxes. ▪ I heard an *announcement* on the loudspeaker saying that the store was closing in 10 minutes. ▪ The company president ***made an announcement*** about the merger. ▪ He asked us to pay attention because he had an important ***announcement to make***. ▪ I saw their ***wedding announcement*** in the newspaper. ▪ Our program will pause now for a brief ***commercial announcement***. [=a television or radio commercial]
2 [*noncount*] **:** the act of officially telling people about something **:** the act of announcing something ▪ They have been very busy since the *announcement* of their wedding. ▪ We had to leave before the *announcement* of the winners. [=before the winners were announced]

an•nounc•er /əˈnaʊnsɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]
1 : a person who gives information on television or radio ▪ He works part-time as an *announcer* for a local radio station.
2 : a person who gives information in a public place (such as a store or airport) especially using a loudspeaker ▪ The racetrack *announcer* said that the next race was about to start. ▪ a ***public address announcer*** [=a person who makes announcements over a public address system]
3 *US* **:** a person who describes a sports event for television or radio ▪ The *announcer* said that the catcher had injured his shoulder.

an•noy /əˈnoɪ/ *verb* **-noys**; **-noyed**; **-noy•ing** [+ *obj*] **:** to cause (someone) to feel slightly angry ▪ Her constant chatter *annoyed* [=*irritated*] all of us. ▪ I was *annoyed* [=*upset, bothered*] by his question.
– annoyed *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] ▪ She is *annoyed* at/with me. ▪ She looked at him with a very *annoyed* expression. ▪ He was *annoyed* (to realize) that he had forgotten his wallet. **– annoying** *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] ▪ He has several *annoying* [=*irritating*] habits. ▪ That noise is very *annoying*.
– an•noy•ing•ly *adv* ▪ She can be *annoyingly* sweet.

an•noy•ance /əˈnojəns/ *noun, pl* **-anc•es**
1 [*noncount*] **:** slight anger **:** the feeling of being annoyed ▪ She expressed *annoyance* at the slow service. ▪ They were late again, (much) ***to our annoyance***. [=it annoyed us that they were late again] ▪ She shook her head ***in annoyance***. [=in a way that showed she was annoyed]
2 [*count*] **:** something that causes feelings of slight anger or irritation **:** a source of annoyance ▪ The long wait at the restaurant was a minor *annoyance*. [=*nuisance*]

[1]an•nu•al /ˈænjəwəl/ *adj*
1 : happening once a year ▪ The *annual* meeting is in July. ▪ It's time for your *annual* [=*yearly*] checkup. ▪ The company's earnings for last year are published in the *annual* report.
2 : covering the period of a year ▪ We had more snow this year than the average *annual* amount. ▪ The company charges an *annual* fee of $45.
3 *always used before a noun, of a plant* **:** living for only one year or season **:** having a life cycle that is one year or season long ▪ *annual* plants/herbs/flowers — compare [1]BIENNIAL, [1]PERENNIAL
– an•nu•al•ly *adv* ▪ We meet *annually* [=*once a year*] in July. ▪ Their earnings increase *annually*. [=*every year*] ▪ A report of the company's earnings is published *annually*.

[2]annual *noun, pl* **-als** [*count*]
1 : a plant that lives for only one year or season ▪ We planted some *annuals* in front of the house. — compare [2]BIENNIAL, [2]PERENNIAL
2 : a book or magazine that is published once a year

an•nu•ity /əˈnuːəti, *Brit* əˈnjuːəti/ *noun, pl* **-ities** [*count*]
1 : a fixed amount of money that is paid to someone each year
2 : an insurance policy or an investment that pays someone a fixed amount of money each year ▪ Part of her retirement income will come from an *annuity*.

an•nul /ə'nʌl/ *verb* **-nuls; -nulled; -nul•ling** [+ *obj*] : to say officially that something is no longer valid : to make (something) legally void ▪ Their marriage was *annulled*. ▪ *annul* a contract/vote/election
– **an•nul•ment** /ə'nʌlmənt/ *noun, pl* **-ments** [*count*] They wanted an *annulment* of their marriage. [*noncount*] The couple has filed for *annulment*.

annum see PER ANNUM

An•nun•ci•a•tion /əˌnʌnsi'eɪʃən/ *noun*
the Annunciation : March 25 celebrated as a Christian festival in memory of the announcement to the Virgin Mary that she would be the mother of Christ

an•ode /'æˌnoʊd/ *noun, pl* **-odes** [*count*] *technical* : the part of an electrical device (such as a battery) from which electrons leave — compare CATHODE

an•o•dyne /'ænəˌdaɪn/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *formal* : not likely to offend or upset anyone ▪ an *anodyne* [=*innocuous*] question about the weather

anoint /ə'noɪnt/ *verb* **anoints; anoint•ed; anoint•ing** [+ *obj*]
1 : to put oil on (someone) as part of a religious ceremony ▪ The priest *anointed* them (with oil).
2 : to officially or formally choose (someone) to do or to be something ▪ He *anointed* [=*named, designated*] her his successor. ▪ The magazine *anointed* her the most popular actress of the year.
– **anoint•ment** /ə'noɪntmənt/ *noun* [*noncount*]

anom•a•lous /ə'nɑ:mələs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *somewhat formal* : not expected or usual ▪ Researchers could not explain the *anomalous* test results.
– **anom•a•lous•ly** *adj*

anom•a•ly /ə'nɑ:məli/ *noun, pl* **-lies** [*count*] *somewhat formal* : something that is unusual or unexpected : something anomalous ▪ A storm like that is an *anomaly* for this area. [=a storm like that does not usually happen in this area] ▪ We couldn't explain the *anomalies* in the test results. ▪ The doctor detected an *anomaly* [=*irregularity*] in my heartbeat.

anon /ə'nɑ:n/ *adv, literary + humorous* : in a short time : SOON ▪ I will answer his letter *anon*.
ever and anon see EVER

anon. *abbr* anonymous; anonymously

an•o•nym•i•ty /ˌænə'nɪməti/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the quality or state of being unknown to most people : the quality or state of being anonymous ▪ They are trying to protect their child's *anonymity*. ▪ She enjoyed the *anonymity* of life in a large city. ▪ She agreed to speak to the reporter only ***on condition of anonymity***. [=only if her name would not be revealed by the reporter]

anon•y•mous /ə'nɑ:nəməs/ *adj*
1 : not named or identified ▪ The donor wishes to remain *anonymous*. ▪ An *anonymous* buyer purchased the painting.
2 : made or done by someone unknown ▪ The college received an *anonymous* gift. ▪ He made an *anonymous* phone call to the police. ▪ The reporter got an *anonymous* tip.
3 [*more* ~; *most* ~] : not distinct or noticeable : lacking interesting or unusual characteristics ▪ She works in an *anonymous* [=*bland, nondescript*] brick building. ▪ His was just another *anonymous* face in the crowd.
– **anon•y•mous•ly** *adv* ▪ They made the donation *anonymously*.

an•o•rak /'ænəˌræk/ *noun, pl* **-raks** [*count*]
1 : a jacket that has a hood and that is long enough to cover your hips ✧ An anorak is usually worn to protect against wind and rain.
2 *Brit, informal + disapproving* : a person who is extremely interested in something that other people find boring ▪ political *anoraks*

an•orex•ia /ˌænə'rɛksijə/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a serious physical and emotional illness in which an abnormal fear of being fat leads to very poor eating habits and dangerous weight loss ✧ *Anorexia* most commonly affects teenage girls and young women. — called also *anorexia nervosa*; compare BULIMIA
– **an•orex•ic** /ˌænə'rɛksɪk/ *adj* ▪ an *anorexic* young woman
– **anorexic** *noun, pl* **-ics** [*count*] ▪ She's an *anorexic*. [=a person suffering from anorexia]

[1]an•oth•er /ə'nʌðɚ/ *adj*
1 : one more in addition ▪ Should we open *another* bottle of wine? ▪ Don't say *another* word. ▪ It will take *another* two years [=an additional two years; two more years] to finish the building. ▪ That's *another* way of saying the same thing. ▪ As far as I'm concerned, "frugal" is just *another* word for "cheap." ["frugal" means the same thing as "cheap"] ▪ We had dinner at ***another one*** of the city's many Italian restaurants. ▪ This is ***yet another*** example of government waste. ▪ If you ask me, he's ***just another*** overpaid athlete. [=he's one of many overpaid athletes]
2 : some other : different from the first or other one ▪ We'll plan to meet again (at) *another* time. ▪ We'll discuss this again on *another* occasion. ▪ The view is very different when it is seen from *another* angle. ▪ Please bring me *another* cup. This one is chipped. ▪ Since his illness he has been *another* man. [=he has been very different from how he was before he became sick] ▪ Tomorrow is *another* day. ▪ the splendors of *another* age [=a past age] ▪ I'm willing to help you, but if you're asking for money, that's ***another thing/matter/story***. [=I'm willing to help you but that does not mean that I'm willing to give you money] ▪ Complaining about problems is one thing, but finding solutions to them is ***another thing*** altogether/entirely. [=it is more difficult to find solutions to problems than to complain about them]
3 : similar or equal to a particular person or thing ▪ He thought of himself as *another* Napoleon. [=as a person who was like Napoleon] ▪ The city advertises itself as *another* Las Vegas.

[2]another *pronoun*
1 : one more of the same kind : another one ▪ I've had one drink, but I think I'll have *another*. ▪ One copy of the letter was sent out, and *another* was placed in the files. ▪ One thief carried a gun, *another* (carried) a knife. ▪ This cup is chipped. Could you please bring me *another*? ▪ We had dinner at *another* of the city's many Italian restaurants.
2 : one that is different : someone or something else ▪ She's not comfortable living in *another's* house. [=in another person's house] ▪ Complaining about problems is one thing, but finding solutions to them is *another*. [=it is more difficult to find solutions to problems than to complain about them] ▪ The family seems to move from one city to *another*.
3 — used in phrases with *one* or (less commonly) *some* to refer to something that is not specified ▪ We all do foolish things ***at one time or another***. [=*sometimes, on occasion*] ▪ They had to change their plans ***for one/some reason or another***. [=for some reason] ▪ He vowed that he would succeed (in) ***one way or another***. [=vowed that he would find a way to succeed] ▪ a lock ***of one kind/sort/type or another*** [=some kind/sort/type of lock] ▪ What with ***one thing and another***, we still haven't finished. [=we still haven't finished because of various things that have happened] — see also ONE ANOTHER
one after another **1** : in a continuing series ▪ The buses kept arriving, *one after another*. ▪ *One* person *after another* walked out of the concert. **2** : each one in a continuing series ▪ *One after another* of her friends got married and moved away.

A. N. Other /ˌeɪˌɛn'ʌðɚ/ *noun, Brit, informal* — used to refer to another person who is not known or named ▪ The rumor was traced to Smith, Jones, and *A. N. Other*.

[1]an•swer /'ænsɚ, *Brit* 'ɑ:nsə/ *noun, pl* **-swers**
1 [*count*] **a** : something you say or write when someone asks you a question ▪ I asked him a simple question and he gave me a long and confusing *answer*. ▪ I didn't believe her *answer*. ▪ They wouldn't give me a straight *answer* to my question. ▪ There will be a ***question and answer session*** [=a period of time when people can have their questions answered] following the speech. **b** : a response to a question that is meant to show whether or not you know something (such as a question asked as part of an exam) ▪ I didn't know the right/correct *answer*. ▪ That is the wrong/incorrect *answer*. **c** : the correct response to a question ▪ Do you know the *answer* to this question? ▪ He knew the *answers* to only 3 of the 10 questions. ▪ The *answers* are listed in the back of the book.
2 : something you say or write as a reaction to something someone else has said or done [*count*] I sent a letter of complaint but I never got an *answer*. [=*response*] ▪ I finally received an *answer* [=*reply*] to my letter. ▪ When I say something to you I expect an *answer*. [=*response*] ▪ I called out her name but I got no *answer*. [=*reply*] [*noncount*] ***In answer*** [=*in response*] to your request we are sending a catalog.
3 [*count*] : something you do in response to something that has happened : a reaction to something — usually singular ▪ I called several times but there was no *answer*. [=no one answered the phone when I called] ▪ I got no *answer* when I called. ▪ I knocked on the door but there was no *answer*. [=no one opened the door when I knocked on it] ▪ The company

A

had no *answer* when its competitors lowered their prices. ▪ When she called him a liar, his only *answer* was to walk out. ▪ Our team had no *answer* for the other team's strong offense. [=our team could not win because of the other team's strong offense]

4 [*count*] : a solution to a problem : something that makes a bad situation better ▪ More money is not the *answer* (to our problems). ▪ It's a very difficult problem, and I don't know what the *answer* is. ▪ They don't have *answers* for everything. = They don't have an *answer* for everything. ▪ For a tough issue like this there are no easy *answers*. ▪ He thinks he ***has/knows all the answers***. [=he thinks that he knows the solution to every problem] ✧ Someone or something that is ***the answer to (all) your prayers*** provides you with something that you want or need. ▪ If you've been wanting to get your schedule organized, this new software is *the answer to (all) your prayers*. ▪ They were desperate to find a good lawyer, and they thought she might be *the answer to their prayers*.

5 [*count*] : something or someone that resembles a well-known or successful thing or person — + *to* ▪ The program is television's *answer to* newsmagazines. [=the program is similar to a newsmagazine]

²answer *verb* **-swers; -swered; -swer•ing**

1 a : to say or write something when someone asks you a question : to give an answer to (a question) [+ *obj*] She *answered* all my questions. ▪ He *answered* only three of the test questions correctly. [*no obj*] When the police asked him his name, he refused to *answer*. ▪ She *answered* correctly/incorrectly. **b** [+ *obj*] : to say or write (something) as a reply ▪ When asked if she would run for office, she *answered* that she hadn't decided. = When asked if she would run for office, she *answered* "I haven't decided." **c** [+ *obj*] : to reply to (someone) : to say or write something as a response to (someone) ▪ When I ask you a question I expect you to *answer* me! ▪ *Answer* me this: where have you put my money?

2 a : to write a response to a letter, e-mail message, etc. [*no obj*] I sent her a letter asking for her help, but she never *answered*. [+ *obj*] She never *answered* my letter. = She never *answered* me. **b** : to pick up (a ringing telephone) [*no obj*] The phone rang repeatedly, but no one *answered*. [+ *obj*] Would somebody please *answer* the phone? ▪ *answer* a phone call **c** : to open a door when someone knocks on it [*no obj*] I knocked on the door but no one *answered*. [+ *obj*] No one *answered* the door.

3 : to act in response to (something) : to react to (something) by taking some action [+ *obj*] I got the job by *answering* a "help wanted" ad in the newspaper. ▪ When the war began, thousands of young men *answered* the call to arms. [=thousands of young men joined the armed forces] ▪ He *answered* her anger with indifference. [=he responded to her anger by acting indifferent] [*no obj*] The home team scored first but the visiting team *answered* quickly. [=the visiting team also scored soon after the home team scored]

4 [+ *obj*] : to say something in response to (something, such as an accusation) : to defend yourself against (something) ▪ The police chief will appear in court today to *answer* charges of corruption. ▪ *answer* criticism

5 [+ *obj*] : to be the same as (something) : to be in agreement with (something, such as a description) ▪ The suspect *answered* [=*matched*] the description that had been given by the witness. — see also ANSWER TO 1 (below)

6 [+ *obj*] : to be what is needed for (something) ▪ We don't have a sink, but this bucket will *answer* [=(more commonly) *serve*] the purpose. [=we can use this bucket as a sink] — see also ANSWER FOR 1c (below)

answer back [*phrasal verb*] **1** *somewhat informal* : to reply to someone especially in a rude way ▪ impolite children who *answer back* [=*talk back*] when their teacher corrects them **2 *answer (someone) back*** : to reply rudely to (someone) ▪ He became angry when she *answered him back*.

answer for [*phrasal verb*] **1 *answer for (something)*** **a** : to take responsibility for (something) ▪ I can't *answer for* their safety. [=I can't promise that they will be safe] : to be responsible for (something) ▪ The company will have to *answer for* any damage done by its employees. ▪ She ***has a lot to answer for***. [=she is responsible for many bad things that have happened] **b** : to be punished for (something) ▪ He must *answer for* his crimes. **c** *US* : to be used as (something) : to serve as (something) ▪ The old bucket *answered for* a sink. [=the old bucket was used as a sink] — see also ²ANSWER 6 (above) **2 *answer for (someone)*** : to say what someone else thinks : to give the opinion of (someone else) ▪ I like the proposal myself, but I can't *answer for* my boss.

answer someone's prayers : to provide what someone hopes or prays for ▪ They hoped that God would *answer their prayers* and restore their son's health. ▪ *Their prayers were answered* when their son's health was restored.

answer to [*phrasal verb*] **1 *answer to (something)*** : to be the same as (something) : to be in agreement with (something, such as a description) ▪ The suspect *answers to* [=*answers, matches*] the description perfectly. — see also ²ANSWER 5 (above) **2 *answer to (someone)*** : to be required to explain your actions to (someone) ▪ He has to *answer to* a tough boss. **3 *answer to a name*** ✧ If an animal, such as a dog, *answers to a name*, it responds when it is called by that name. ▪ This dog *answers to the name* (of) "Rover." This phrase is also used to refer to the name used by a person. ▪ My uncle's real name is "Edwin," but he doesn't *answer to that name*. He prefers to be called "Ed."

– an•swer•er /'ænsəɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]

an•swer•able /'ænsərəbəl, *Brit* 'ɑ:nsərəbəl/ *adj*

1 *not used before a noun* **a** : required to explain actions or decisions *to* someone ▪ Political leaders need to be *answerable to* [=*accountable to*] the people they represent. ▪ a powerful businesswoman who seems to think that she's *answerable to* no one **b** : responsible *for* something ▪ The company is *answerable for* [=*accountable for*] any damage caused by its employees.

2 : capable of being answered ▪ an easily *answerable* question

answering machine *noun, pl* **~ -chines** [*count*] : a machine that answers the telephone and records messages left by the people who call ▪ I haven't spoken to him yet, but he left a message on my *answering machine*.

answering service *noun, pl* **~ -vices** [*count*] : a business that answers telephone calls and takes messages for the people and businesses that hire it ▪ The doctor is not in the office now, but you can reach her *answering service* at this number if you have an emergency.

an•swer•phone /'ænsəˌfoʊn, *Brit* 'ɑ:nsəˌfəʊn/ *noun, pl* **-phones** [*count*] *Brit* : ANSWERING MACHINE

ant /'ænt/ *noun, pl* **ants** [*count*] : a kind of small insect that lives in an organized social group ▪ a colony of *ants* = an *ant* colony — see color picture on page C10

ants in your pants *informal* : a strong feeling of wanting to be active and not wait for something : a feeling of excitement and impatience ▪ a little kid with *ants in her pants*

¹-ant /ənt/ *noun suffix* : a person or thing that does a specified thing ▪ assist*ant* ▪ attend*ant* ▪ immigr*ant* ▪ cool*ant* ▪ pollut*ant*

²-ant *adj suffix* : doing a specified thing or behaving in a specified way ▪ propell*ant* ▪ hesit*ant* ▪ observ*ant*

ant•ac•id /ænt'æsəd/ *noun, pl* **-ids** [*count, noncount*] : medicine that prevents or lessens the pain caused by having too much acid in your stomach

an•tag•o•nism /æn'tægəˌnɪzəm/ *noun, pl* **-nisms** : a strong feeling of dislike or hatred : a desire to oppose something you dislike or disagree with — often + *between* or *toward* [*noncount*] There is a long history of *antagonism* [=*hostility, enmity*] *between* the two nations. ▪ The policy is creating *antagonism* [=*opposition*] *between* the staff and management. ▪ I never felt any *antagonism* [=*animosity*] *toward* her. [*plural*] The region has a long history of ethnic *antagonisms*.

an•tag•o•nist /æn'tægənɪst/ *noun, pl* **-nists** [*count*] : a person who opposes another person ▪ He faced his *antagonist* [=(more commonly) *opponent, adversary*] in a series of debates.

an•tag•o•nis•tic /ænˌtægə'nɪstɪk/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : showing dislike or opposition : showing antagonism ▪ They found it impossible to deal with such *antagonistic* groups. — often + *to* or *toward* ▪ Many people are *antagonistic* [=*opposed, hostile*] *to* the idea of making major changes to the building. ▪ The two groups have always been *antagonistic toward* each other. ▪ She was *antagonistic toward* the media.

– an•tag•o•nis•tic•al•ly /ænˌtægə'nɪstɪkli/ *adv* ▪ Many people reacted *antagonistically* to her comments.

an•tag•o•nize *also Brit* **an•tag•o•nise** /æn'tægəˌnaɪz/ *verb* **-niz•es; -nized; -niz•ing** [+ *obj*] : to cause (someone) to feel hostile or angry : to irritate or upset (someone) ▪ He didn't mean to *antagonize* you. ▪ Her comments *antagonized* many people.

ant•arc•tic *or* **Ant•arc•tic** /ænt'ɑɚktɪk/ *adj, always used before a noun* : of or relating to the South Pole or the region around it ▪ off the *antarctic* coast ▪ The group is involved in

Antarctic exploration. ▪ *Antarctic* waters — compare ARCTIC

Antarctic Circle *noun*
the Antarctic Circle : an imaginary line that goes around the Earth near the South Pole

[1]an•te /ˈænti/ *noun, pl* **an•tes** [*count*] : the amount of money that a player must bet at the beginning of play in a poker game — usually singular ▪ The dealer called for a dollar *ante*. — see also PENNY-ANTE
raise the ante *or* ***up the ante*** : to increase an amount or level: such as **a** : to raise the cost or price ▪ The popular actor first demanded twice the salary offered him but then kept *upping the ante*. **b** : to increase the risk or possible harm that could result from something — often + *on* ▪ The new law *ups the ante on* [=increases penalties for] people who cheat on their taxes. **c** : to set a higher standard or goal — often + *on* ▪ The film *ups the ante on* special effects.

[2]ante *verb* **antes**; **an•ted**; **an•te•ing** : to pay the amount of money required to start play in a poker game [*no obj*] Did everyone at the table *ante*? — usually + *up* ▪ The dealer waited until everyone had *anted up* before he dealt the cards. [+ *obj*] Everyone *anted up* a dollar. — often used figuratively ▪ Parents are usually expected to *ante up* [=*pay*] for their children's college education. ▪ They had to *ante up* [=*pay*] $5,000 to attend the senator's banquet.

ante- *prefix*
1 : before or earlier ▪ *ante*date ▪ *ante*natal
2 : in front of ▪ *ante*room

ant•eat•er /ˈænt͡ˌi:tɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : an animal that has a very long nose and tongue and eats ants

an•te•bel•lum /ˌæntɪˈbɛləm/ *adj, always used before a noun, formal* : occurring in the southern U.S. during the time before the American Civil War ▪ the *antebellum* South ▪ *antebellum* society/houses

[1]an•te•ced•ent /ˌæntəˈsi:dənt/ *noun, pl* **-ents**
1 [*count*] *grammar* : a word or phrase that is represented by another word (such as a pronoun) ▪ "John" is the *antecedent* of the pronoun "him" in "Mary saw John and thanked him."
2 [*count*] *formal* : something that came before something else and may have influenced or caused it ▪ The events were *antecedents* of/to the war. [=the events helped to cause the war] ▪ the *antecedents* of rap music [=music that came before and influenced rap music]
3 ***antecedents*** [*plural*] *formal* : the people in a family who lived in past times ▪ He is proud of his Scottish *antecedents*. [=(more commonly) *ancestors*]

[2]antecedent *adj, formal* : earlier in time ▪ These *antecedent* [=*prior, previous*] events affected the outcome of the war.

an•te•cham•ber /ˈæntɪˌt͡ʃeɪmbɚ/ *noun, pl* **-bers** [*count*] *formal* : ANTEROOM

an•te•date /ˈæntɪˌdeɪt/ *verb* **-dates**; **-dat•ed**; **-dat•ing** [+ *obj*] *formal*
1 : to give an earlier date rather than the actual date to (something) ▪ *antedate* a check — opposite POSTDATE
2 : to be earlier or older than (something) : PREDATE ▪ The church *antedates* the village itself. — opposite POSTDATE

an•te•di•lu•vi•an /ˌæntɪdəˈlu:vijən/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *formal* : very old or old-fashioned ▪ an *antediluvian* automobile ▪ He has *antediluvian* notions/ideas about the role of women in the workplace.

an•te•lope /ˈæntɪˌloʊp/ *noun, pl* **an•te•lopes** *or* **antelope** [*count*] : an animal in Africa and Asia that looks like a deer, has horns pointing up and back, and runs very fast

an•te•na•tal /ˌæntɪˈneɪtl/ *adj, always used before a noun, Brit, medical* : PRENATAL

an•ten•na /ænˈtɛnə/ *noun, pl* **-nae** /-ni/ *or* **-nas** [*count*]
1 : a thin sensitive organ on the head of an insect, crab, etc., that is used mainly to feel and touch things — sometimes used figuratively ▪ a Senator with sensitive political *antennae* [=a Senator who is very aware of political issues and attitudes] ✧ The plural of *antenna* in this sense is usually *antennae*.
2 *chiefly US* : a device (such as a wire or a metal rod) for sending or receiving radio or television signals ▪ a TV *antenna* [=(*chiefly Brit*) *aerial*] — see picture at CAR ✧ The plural of *antenna* in this sense is usually *antennas*.

an•te•ri•or /ænˈtirijɚ/ *adj, technical* : near or toward the front of something (such as the body) ▪ the *anterior* part of the brain — opposite POSTERIOR

an•te•room /ˈæntɪˌru:m/ *noun, pl* **-rooms** [*count*] : a small room that is connected to a larger room and used as a place for people to wait before going into the larger room — called also *antechamber*

an•them /ˈænθəm/ *noun, pl* **-thems** [*count*]
1 : a formal song of loyalty, praise, or happiness ▪ patriotic *anthems* — see also NATIONAL ANTHEM
2 : a song that is important to a particular group of people ▪ teen *anthems*
– **an•the•mic** /ˌænˈθi:mɪk/ *adj* ▪ an *anthemic* song/chorus

an•ther /ˈænθɚ/ *noun, pl* **-thers** [*count*] *technical* : the part of a flower that contains pollen

ant•hill /ˈænt͡ˌhɪl/ *noun, pl* **-hills** [*count*] : a mound of dirt made by ants when building a nest

an•thol•o•gy /ænˈθɑ:lət͡ʒi/ *noun, pl* **-gies** [*count*]
1 : a published collection of writings (such as poems or short stories) by different authors ▪ an *anthology* of American poetry
2 : a collection of works of art or music ▪ The band will be releasing an *anthology* of their earlier albums.

an•thra•cite /ˈænθrəˌsaɪt/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a hard type of coal that burns slowly without much smoke or flame

an•thrax /ˈænˌθræks/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a serious disease that affects animals (such as cattle and sheep) and sometimes people

an•thro•poid /ˈænθrəˌpoɪd/ *adj, technical* : resembling a human being ▪ *anthropoid* apes
– **anthropoid** *noun, pl* **-poids** [*count*] ▪ gorillas and other *anthropoids*

an•thro•pol•o•gy /ˌænθrəˈpɑ:lət͡ʒi/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the study of human races, origins, societies, and cultures
– **an•thro•po•log•i•cal** /ˌænθrəpəˈlɑ:d͡ʒɪkəl/ *adj* ▪ *anthropological* research – **an•thro•po•log•i•cal•ly** /ˌænθrəpəˈlɑ:d͡ʒɪkli/ *adv* – **an•thro•pol•o•gist** /ˌænθrəˈpɑ:lət͡ʒɪst/ *noun, pl* **-gists** [*count*]

an•thro•po•morph•ic /ˌænθrəpəˈmoəfɪk/ *adj*
1 : described or thought of as being like human beings in appearance, behavior, etc. ▪ a story in which the characters are *anthropomorphic* animals
2 : considering animals, objects, etc., as having human qualities ▪ *anthropomorphic* beliefs about nature

an•ti /ˈænti, ˈænˌtaɪ/ *prep, informal* : opposed to (something or someone) : AGAINST ▪ She's *anti* big corporations.

an•ti- /ˌænˌtaɪ, ˌænti; *sometimes* ˌæntɪ *before consonants*/ *prefix*
1 : opposite to something ▪ *anti*climax ▪ *anti*social
2 : against someone or something ▪ *anti*government [=opposed to the government] ▪ *anti*smoking ▪ *anti*war — often used with a hyphen ▪ *anti*-American ▪ *anti*-poverty ▪ *anti*-gun — opposite PRO-
3 : acting to prevent something ▪ *anti*bacterial ▪ *anti*freeze ▪ *anti*theft
4 : fighting or defending against something ▪ *anti*aircraft

an•ti•air•craft /ˌæntiˈeɚˌkræft, *Brit* ˌæntiˈɛəˌkrɑ:ft/ *adj, always used before a noun* : used for defense against military aircraft ▪ *antiaircraft* guns/missiles

an•ti•bac•te•ri•al /ˌænˌtaɪbækˈtirijəl/ *adj* : able to kill bacteria ▪ *antibacterial* soap

an•ti•bi•ot•ic /ˌænˌtaɪbaɪˈɑ:tɪk/ *noun, pl* **-ics** [*count*] *medical* : a drug that is used to kill harmful bacteria and to cure infections
– **antibiotic** *adj* ▪ an *antibiotic* pill ▪ *antibiotic* drugs

an•ti•body /ˈæntɪˌbɑ:di/ *noun, pl* **-bod•ies** [*count*] *medical* : a substance produced by the body to fight disease

an•tic /ˈæntɪk/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : very playful, funny, or silly ▪ an *antic* comedian ▪ *antic* humor — see also ANTICS

an•tic•i•pate /ænˈtɪsəˌpeɪt/ *verb* **-pates**; **-pat•ed**; **-pat•ing** [+ *obj*]
1 : to think of (something that will or might happen in the future) : EXPECT ▪ The cost turned out to be higher than *anticipated*. ▪ They do not *anticipate* [=*foresee*] any major problems during construction. ▪ The hotel *anticipated* my every need. [=I didn't have to ask for anything because they already provided it] ▪ The author *anticipated* objections to his theory. ▪ The organizers of the fair *anticipate* a large crowd. ▪ I did not *anticipate* having to pay for your ticket. ▪ The boxer tried to *anticipate* [=*predict*] his opponent's next move.
2 : to expect or look ahead to (something) with pleasure : to look forward to (something) ▪ He eagerly *anticipated* her arrival.
3 *formal* : to do something before someone else ▪ His use of composition *anticipated* later Renaissance paintings. = He *anticipated* later Renaissance painters in his use of composition.

an•tic•i•pa•tion /ænˌtɪsəˈpeɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*]

A

1 : a feeling of excitement about something that is going to happen ▪ She had a feeling of great *anticipation* before her graduation ceremony. ▪ He looked forward to the party with *anticipation*. ▪ The actor's fans were trembling with/in *anticipation* [=*excitement*] when his limousine drove up.

2 : the act of preparing for something ▪ They hired extra police officers ***in anticipation of*** a big crowd [=because they expected a big crowd] at the concert.

– **an·tic·i·pa·to·ry** /æn'tɪsəpə,tori, *Brit* æn,tɪsə'peɪtri, æn'tɪsəpətri/ *adj, formal* ▪ the *anticipatory* excitement before a baseball play-off game ▪ The town took *anticipatory* measures to prevent a flood.

an·ti·cli·max /,æn,taɪ'klaɪ,mæks/ *noun, pl* **-max·es** : something that is much less exciting or dramatic than it was expected to be : a dull or disappointing ending or result [*count*] The last chapter of the book was an *anticlimax*. [*noncount*] The movie ended in *anticlimax*.

– **an·ti·cli·mac·tic** /,æn,taɪ,klaɪ'mæktɪk/ *adj* ▪ The last chapter of the book was *anticlimactic*. ▪ The trial was *anticlimactic*, since it ended without a verdict.

an·ti·clock·wise /,æn,taɪ'klɑ:k,waɪz/ *adj or adv, Brit* : COUNTERCLOCKWISE

an·ti·co·ag·u·lant /,æn,taɪ,koʊ'ægjələnt/ *noun, pl* **-lants** [*count*] *medical* : a substance that prevents blood from forming clots

an·tics /'æntɪks/ *noun* [*plural*] *often disapproving* : funny or playful actions or behavior ▪ I'm tired of his childish *antics*.

an·ti·cy·clone /,æntɪ'saɪ,kloʊn/ *noun, pl* **-clones** [*count*] *technical* : winds that turn around an area of high pressure and that often bring clear, dry air ✧ Anticyclones and cyclones turn in opposite directions.

– **an·ti·cy·clon·ic** /,æntɪsaɪ'klɑ:nɪk/ *adj*

an·ti·de·pres·sant /,æn,taɪdɪ'prɛsnt/ *noun, pl* **-sants** [*count*] *medical* : a drug that is used to relieve or prevent depression in a person

– **antidepressant** *adj* ▪ *antidepressant* drugs/medication

an·ti·dote /'æntɪ,doʊt/ *noun, pl* **-dotes** [*count*]

1 : a substance that stops the harmful effects of a poison ▪ There is no *antidote* to/for this poison.

2 : something that corrects or improves the bad effects of something ▪ For him, racing motorcycles is a great *antidote* to boredom.

an·ti·freeze /'æntɪ,fri:z/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a substance that is added to the water in a vehicle's engine to prevent it from freezing

an·ti·gen /'æntɪʤən/ *noun, pl* **-gens** [*count*] *medical* : a harmful substance that causes the body to produce antibodies

an·ti·he·ro /'æn,taɪ,hiroʊ/ *noun, pl* **-roes** [*count*] : a main character in a book, play, movie, etc., who does not have the usual good qualities that are expected in a hero

an·ti·his·ta·mine /,æntɪ'hɪstə,mi:n/ *noun, pl* **-mines** [*count, noncount*] *medical* : a drug that is used to treat allergic reactions and colds

an·ti–in·flam·ma·to·ry /,æntijɪn'flæmə,tori, *Brit* ,æntijɪn'flæmətri/ *adj, medical* : used to control or reduce inflammation ▪ *anti-inflammatory* drugs

– **anti–inflammatory** *noun, pl* **-ries** [*count*]

an·ti·lock /'æn,taɪ,lɑ:k/ *adj, always used before a noun* : made to keep the wheels of a vehicle from causing a skid when the vehicle stops suddenly ▪ *Antilock* braking systems give the driver greater control during a sudden stop. ▪ *antilock* brakes

an·ti·mo·ny /'æntə,moʊni, *Brit* æn'tɪməni/ *noun* [*noncount*] *technical* : a silvery-white metal that breaks easily and that is used especially in alloys

an·ti·ox·i·dant /,ænti'ɑ:ksədənt/ *noun, pl* **-dants** [*count*] : a substance that is added to food and other products to prevent harmful chemical reactions in which oxygen is combined with other substances

an·ti·pas·to /,ænti'pɑ:stoʊ, ,ænti'pæstoʊ, *Brit* 'ænti,pæstəʊ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a plate of cold meat or vegetables that is served especially as the first course of a meal

an·tip·a·thy /æn'tɪpəθi/ *noun, pl* **-thies** *formal* : a strong feeling of dislike [*noncount*] There has always been strong *antipathy* between the two groups. ▪ feelings of *antipathy* [*count*] The author's *antipathies* and prejudices are obvious. — often + *to* or *toward* ▪ The author's *antipathy to/toward* other cultures is obvious.

– **an·ti·pa·thet·ic** /,æntɪpə'θɛtɪk/ *adj* ▪ *antipathetic* views/feelings — often + *to* ▪ He is *antipathetic to* change.

an·ti·per·son·nel /,æn,taɪpəsə'nɛl/ *adj, always used before a noun* : made to kill and injure people rather than to destroy buildings, vehicles, etc. ▪ *antipersonnel* land mines

an·ti·per·spi·rant /,æntɪ'pəspɹənt/ *noun, pl* **-rants** [*count, noncount*] : a substance that is used to prevent sweating — compare DEODORANT

An·tip·o·des /æn'tɪpə,di:z/ *noun*

the Antipodes *chiefly Brit* : Australia and New Zealand

– **an·tip·o·de·an** *or* **Antipodean** /æn,tɪpə'di:jən/ *adj* ▪ *antipodean* destinations ▪ her *Antipodean* friends [=friends from Australia or New Zealand] – **antipodean** *or* **Antipodean** *noun, pl* **-ans** [*count*]

[1]an·ti·quar·i·an /,æntə'kwerijən/ *noun, pl* **-ans** [*count*] : a person who collects, studies, or sells valuable old things — called also *antiquary*

[2]antiquarian *adj* : relating to the collection and study of valuable old things (such as old books) ▪ *antiquarian* bookstores

an·ti·quary /'æntə,kweri, *Brit* 'æntəkwəri/ *noun, pl* **-quaries** [*count*] : ANTIQUARIAN

an·ti·quat·ed /'æntə,kweɪtəd/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : very old and no longer useful, popular, or accepted : very old-fashioned or obsolete ▪ *antiquated* [=*outmoded, outdated*] medical procedures ▪ He has some pretty *antiquated* opinions about politics.

[1]an·tique /æn'ti:k/ *adj* : belonging to an earlier period, style, or fashion : old and often valuable ▪ *antique* furniture ▪ an *antique* clock/car ***synonyms*** see [1]OLD

[2]antique *noun, pl* **-tiques** [*count*] : art, furniture, jewelry, etc., that was made at an earlier time and is often valuable ▪ She collects *antiques*. ▪ That car is an *antique*. — often used before another noun ▪ an *antique* collector/dealer/shop

an·tiq·ui·ty /æn'tɪkwəti/ *noun, pl* **-ties**

1 [*noncount*] : ancient times ▪ Greek/Roman *antiquity* ▪ The town dates from *antiquity*. ▪ late *antiquity* ▪ A palace stood here in *antiquity*.

2 [*noncount*] : very great age ▪ a castle of great *antiquity* [=a very old castle]

3 ***antiquities*** [*plural*] : objects from ancient times ▪ a museum of Roman *antiquities*

an·ti–Sem·ite /,æn,taɪ'sɛ,maɪt/ *noun, pl* **-ites** [*count*] : someone who hates Jewish people

an·ti–Se·mit·ic /,æn,taɪsə'mɪtɪk/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : feeling or showing hatred of Jewish people ▪ *anti-Semitic* literature ▪ The group denied being *anti-Semitic*.

an·ti–Sem·i·tism /,æn,taɪ'sɛmə,tɪzəm/ *noun* [*noncount*] : hatred of Jewish people

an·ti·sep·tic /,æntə'sɛptɪk/ *noun, pl* **-tics** : a substance that prevents infection in a wound by killing bacteria [*count*] Clean the affected area with an *antiseptic*. [*noncount*] He applied *antiseptic* to the wound.

– **antiseptic** *adj* ▪ *antiseptic* cream/lotion/soap

an·ti·so·cial /,æn,taɪ'soʊʃəl/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*]

1 : violent or harmful to people ▪ Crime is *antisocial*. ▪ *antisocial* tendencies/attitudes/behavior

2 : not friendly to other people ▪ My neighbor is *antisocial*. ▪ She's not being *antisocial*; she's just shy at parties.

an·ti·tank /'æntiˌtæŋk/ *adj, always used before a noun* : used to destroy or stop tanks ▪ *antitank* weapons

an·tith·e·sis /æn'tɪθəsəs/ *noun, pl* **-e·ses** /-ə,si:z/ [*count*] *formal*

1 : the exact opposite of something or someone ▪ poverty and its *antithesis* [=*opposite*], wealth — often + *of* ▪ She is the *antithesis of* a politician. [=her character is the opposite of a politician's] ▪ His lifestyle is the *antithesis of* healthy living.

2 : the state of two things that are directly opposite to each other — often + *of* or *between* ▪ The poem reflects the *antithesis of/between* good and evil.

an·ti·thet·i·cal /,æntə'θɛtɪkəl/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] *formal* : directly opposite or opposed ▪ the *antithetical* forces of good and evil — often + *to* ▪ The court's ruling is *antithetical to* the very idea of democracy.

an·ti·trust /,æntaɪ'trʌst/ *adj, always used before a noun, law* : protecting against unfair business practices that limit competition or control prices ▪ *antitrust* laws ▪ an *antitrust* violation [=a violation of an antitrust law]

an·ti·vi·rus /,ænti'vaɪrəs/ *adj* : used to protect a computer from viruses ▪ *antivirus* software

ant·ler /'æntlɚ/ *noun, pl* **-lers** [*count*] : the horn of a deer or similar animal

– **ant·lered** /'æntlɚd/ *adj* ▪ a deer with an *antlered* head

an•to•nym /ˈæntəˌnɪm/ *noun, pl* **-nyms** [*count*] : a word with a meaning that is opposite to the meaning of another word ▪ "Hot" and "cold" are *antonyms*. — compare SYNONYM

ant•sy /ˈæntsi/ *adj* **ant•si•er; -est** *chiefly US, informal*
1 : impatient and unable to keep still ▪ The children were getting *antsy* [=*fidgety, restless*] on the trip in the car.
2 : nervous about what might happen ▪ Investors are *antsy* [=*anxious*] as stock prices continue to decline.

anus /ˈeɪnəs/ *noun, pl* **anus•es** [*count*] : the opening between a person's buttocks through which solid waste passes from the body

an•vil /ˈænvəl/ *noun, pl* **-vils** [*count*] : a heavy iron block on which heated metal is shaped by hitting it with a hammer


anvil

anx•i•ety /æŋˈzajəti/ *noun, pl* **-et•ies**
1 : fear or nervousness about what might happen [*noncount*] feelings of anger and *anxiety* ▪ She suffers from chronic/acute *anxiety*. ▪ He suffers from test *anxiety*. [=excessive fear about taking tests] ▪ He's been feeling a lot of *anxiety* about/over his new job. [*count*] — usually plural ▪ modern *anxieties* about terrorism ▪ She discussed her *anxieties* with her sister.
2 [*singular*] : a feeling of wanting *to do* something very much ▪ She has always had an *anxiety to succeed*. [=she has always been anxious to succeed]

anx•ious /ˈæŋkʃəs/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*]
1 a : afraid or nervous especially about what may happen : feeling anxiety ▪ She feels *anxious* and depressed. ▪ They are *anxious* [=*worried, concerned*] about their son's health. ▪ People are *anxious* about the future. ▪ They were *anxious* for their daughter. [=they were worried about what might happen to their daughter] ▪ He was *anxious* that the weather would not improve in time for the party. **b** : causing or showing fear or nervousness ▪ We experienced a few *anxious* moments as we waited to hear the results of the test. ▪ It was an *anxious* night as she waited for her children to come home. ▪ an *anxious* moment ▪ He was waiting at the door with an *anxious* expression/look on his face.
2 : wanting or eager to do or have something very much especially because of fear or nervousness ▪ He was *anxious* for more news. — often followed by *to* + *verb* ▪ She was *anxious to succeed* in school. ▪ It was snowing hard and we were *anxious to get* home. ▪ We were *anxious to hear* the results.
– **anx•ious•ly** *adv* ▪ Her parents waited *anxiously* for her to come home that night. – **anx•ious•ness** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ feelings of *anxiousness* [=(more commonly) *anxiety*]

[1]any /ˈɛni/ *adj, always used before a noun*
1 — used to indicate a person or thing that is not particular or specific ▪ Ask *any* man you meet, and he will tell you the same thing. ▪ *Any* one of them could have answered the question. ▪ You can return the product if *any* defect appears within the first six months. ▪ *Any* plan (at all) is better than no plan. ▪ *Any* [=*every*] child knows that. [=all children know that] ▪ He is as good as *any* other pitcher in the league. ▪ We can meet *any* day but Monday. ▪ You could have seen him *any* afternoon last week. ▪ The recipe uses a large amount of pepper, and ***not just any*** pepper, but a special blend imported from India. ▪ You have to be a member to go there. They won't let ***just any*** person in.
2 — used to indicate an amount greater than zero or none; usually used in negative statements, in questions, and in statements with *if* or *whether* ▪ You haven't eaten *any* salad. [=no salad has been eaten] ▪ I can't find *any* stamps. ▪ Don't pay *any* attention to him. ▪ There is hardly *any* difference between the two teams. ▪ They dropped by without *any* warning. ▪ We don't want there to be *any* misunderstandings. ▪ The company has denied *any* [=*all*] responsibility for the accident. ▪ There are ***few if any*** [=few or no] details about the accident. ▪ Do you have *any* money? ▪ He asked if/whether you had *any* money. ▪ If there are *any* errors, report them to me. = Report *any* errors to me. ▪ If you can give me *any* help, I'd appreciate it. = I'd appreciate *any* help you can give me.

usage *Some* is used instead of *any* in positive statements. ▪ I have *some* money. It is sometimes used instead of *any* in questions and in statements with *if* or *whether*. ▪ Do you have *some* money? ▪ If I had *some* money, I would spend it on books.

any moment see MOMENT
any old see [1]OLD
at any cost see [1]COST
by any chance see [1]CHANCE
go to any length/lengths see LENGTH
in any case see [1]CASE
in any event see EVENT

[2]any *pronoun*
1 : any one of the people or things in a group ▪ She asked if there were *any* present who needed assistance. ▪ The movie's opening scene is as powerful as *any* I've ever watched. — often + *of* ▪ *Any of* them could answer the question. ▪ He is taller than *any of* the other boys.
2 : any amount ▪ "I'd like some more coffee." "I'm sorry, but there isn't *any* left." ▪ Is there *any* [=*some*] left? ▪ I'll see if there's *any* [=*some*] left. — often + *of* ▪ You have not eaten *any of* your salad.

[3]any *adv* : to the least amount or degree ▪ The food there is never *any* good. ▪ He won't be *any* happier there than he was here. ▪ I could not walk *any* farther. ▪ Do you want *any* [=*some*] more pizza? ▪ I can't eat *any* more pizza. ▪ If you want *any* [=*some*] more pizza, it's in the fridge. ▪ (*US, informal*) You certainly aren't helping me *any*. [=*at all*] ▪ We can't ignore these problems ***any longer***. [=*anymore*] [=we must stop ignoring these problems]

any•body /ˈɛniˌbɑːdi, ˈɛniˌbʌdi/ *pronoun*
1 : any person : ANYONE ▪ Did *anybody* call? ▪ I don't know how *anybody* can believe that. ▪ I thought I heard someone outside, but when I looked there wasn't *anybody* there. [=no one was there] ▪ An accident like that could happen to *anybody*. ▪ You have to be a member to go there. They won't let ***just anybody*** in. ▪ ***Everybody who's anybody*** [=every important or well-known person] was there. ▪ She arrived 10 minutes before ***anybody else***. [=before any other person]
2 — used when asking a question that could be answered by any of the people in a group ▪ Does *anybody* know where my keys are? [=do any of you know where my keys are?] ▪ Would *anybody* like more coffee?

any•how /ˈɛniˌhaʊ/ *adv, informal*
1 : ANYWAY ▪ It's OK if we don't go to the movie. I'm not that interested in seeing it *anyhow*. ▪ What exactly did she mean by that *anyhow*?
2 *chiefly Brit* : in a way that is not organized or neat : in a careless way ▪ The books were scattered *anyhow* [=*every which way*] around the office.

any•more /ˌɛniˈmoɚ/ *adv* : in the recent or present period of time ▪ I never see them *anymore*. ▪ She used to live there, but she doesn't live there *anymore*. [=she doesn't live there any longer; she doesn't live there now]

usage *Anymore* is usually used in negative statements and in questions. ▪ Does she live there *anymore*? In some parts of the U.S. it is also used informally in positive statements. ▪ I've been seeing them a lot *anymore*. [=I've been seeing them a lot lately/recently] It is sometimes written *any more*. ▪ She doesn't live there *any more*.

any•one /ˈɛniˌwʌn/ *pronoun*
1 : any person : ANYBODY ▪ Did *anyone* call? ▪ If *anyone* calls, take a message. ▪ I don't know how *anyone* can believe that. ▪ An accident like that could happen to *anyone*. ▪ I thought I heard someone outside, but there wasn't *anyone* there. [=no one was there] ▪ You have to be a member to go there. They won't let ***just anyone*** in. ▪ ***Everyone who's anyone*** [=every important or well-known person] was there. ▪ She arrived 10 minutes before ***anyone else***. [=before any other person]
2 — used when asking a question that could be answered by any one of the people in a group ▪ Does *anyone* know where my keys are? [=do any of you know where my keys are?] ▪ Would *anyone* like more coffee? — compare SOMEONE

any•place /ˈɛniˌpleɪs/ *adv, US* : [1]ANYWHERE 1 ▪ I'll go *anyplace* you want. ▪ I can't find my keys *anyplace*. ▪ I'm happy here and I wouldn't want to live *anyplace* else.

any•thing /ˈɛniˌθɪŋ/ *pronoun*
1 : a thing of any kind ▪ We were allowed to do *anything* we wanted to. ▪ If you're not sure what to say, just say *anything* that comes to mind. ▪ She didn't say *anything* at all. [=she said nothing at all] ▪ That dog will eat almost/nearly/practically/virtually *anything*. ▪ We didn't talk about *anything* much. ▪ The new stadium is spectacular. There's never been *anything* like it. ▪ She never does *anything* but complain. [=all she does is complain] ▪ I'll do *anything* I can to help. ▪ They were ready for *anything* (that might happen). ▪ You can't tell him *any-*

A

thing about computers. He thinks he's an expert. ▪ I can't think of her as *anything* but a good friend. [=I can only think of her as a good friend] ▪ He'll do *anything* for a laugh. ▪ I'd do/give *anything* to see her again. ▪ He won't take *anything* from anyone. [=he won't allow anyone to mistreat him, to be rude to him, etc.] ▪ She ate hardly *anything*. [=she ate almost nothing] ▪ He said he was sorry, but that doesn't really mean *anything*. ▪ I don't have *anything* against them. [=I don't have any reason for disliking them] ▪ She thought it was funny but I didn't see *anything* funny about it. [=I didn't think it was funny at all] ▪ They've been doing ***everything and anything*** to finish on time. = They've been doing ***anything and everything*** to finish on time. ▪ The problems were caused by lack of time ***as much as anything***. ▪ She dresses conservatively at work, but on the weekends, ***anything goes***. [=anything is acceptable; there are no rules that have to be followed]

2 : [1]SOMETHING — used in questions ▪ Would you like *anything* else? ▪ Is there *anything* wrong? ▪ Is there *anything* (good/interesting) on TV tonight? ▪ (*informal*) Do you want some pretzels ***or anything***? [=or a similar thing]

anything but **:** not at all ▪ He looked *anything but* happy. [=he looked very unhappy] ▪ Though he said he was happy, he looked *anything but* (happy). ▪ This problem is *anything but* new.

anything like **1 :** at all like — used in negative statements ▪ He doesn't look *anything like* his brother. **2** ***or anything near*** **:** in any way **:** at all — used in negative statements ▪ He doesn't look *anything like* his brother. ▪ The movie wasn't *anything like/near* what I expected it to be. [=the movie was completely different from what I expected it to be] ▪ We don't have *anything like/near* enough time. [=we don't have nearly enough time]

as anything *informal* **:** as any person or thing — used to make a statement more forceful ▪ He was (*as*) calm *as anything*. [=he was very calm] ▪ It was as obvious *as anything* [=it was extremely obvious] that she didn't want to go.

for anything **:** for any reason — used in negative statements ▪ I like my life, and I wouldn't change it *for anything*.

if anything see [1]IF

like anything *informal* **:** very much **:** very forcefully ▪ It was raining *like anything*. [=it was raining very hard] ▪ She was hoping *like anything* that the weather would be good.

more than anything **:** very much **:** very badly ▪ I wanted to believe her *more than anything* [=I very much wanted to believe her], but I couldn't. ▪ *More than anything* (in the world), I'd like to visit Paris again. [=the thing I most want to do is to visit Paris again]

any·time /ˈɛniˌtaɪm/ *adv* **:** at any time ▪ You can call me *anytime*. I'm always home. ▪ We should arrive *anytime* between 5 and 6 p.m. ▪ The bus should be here *anytime* now. ▪ Things will not improve ***anytime soon***. [=things will not improve in the near future] ✧ *Anytime* is sometimes used informally to say that you are willing to do something again at any time. ▪ "Thanks for your help." "*Anytime*."

any·way /ˈɛniˌweɪ/ *adv*

1 : despite something that has been stated before ▪ The road got worse, but they kept going *anyway*. ▪ I didn't expect her to say "yes," but I asked her *anyway*. ▪ It makes no difference what we say. She's going to do what she wants *anyway*. ▪ He's far from perfect, but she loves him *anyway*.

2 — used to give added force to a question ▪ How do they do it *anyway*? ▪ What exactly does this mean *anyway*? ▪ I can't believe he acted so rudely. Who does he think he is *anyway*?

3 — used to add something to a previous statement ▪ It's too expensive, ***and anyway*** [=and besides], we don't have enough time to do it.

4 — used to correct or slightly change a previous statement ▪ I've never known him to be sad—not this sad *anyway*. ▪ The movie wasn't that bad. I liked it, *anyway*, even if no one else did. ▪ For a brief time, *anyway*, they seemed to be happy. ▪ The weather is expected to improve next week. *Anyway*, that's what I've heard.

5 — used to indicate that something stated before is not important ▪ Don't worry about being late. It doesn't matter *anyway*.

6 — used to introduce a statement that begins a new subject or that goes on to the next important part of a story ▪ So, *anyway*, what do you want to do next? ▪ *Anyway*, I have to go now. I'm already late. ▪ I must have fallen asleep at that point. *Anyway*, the next thing I knew, the phone was ringing.

any·ways /ˈɛniˌweɪz/ *adv, US, informal* **:** ANYWAY ▪ Who does that guy think he is *anyways*? ▪ You're late. *Anyways*, at least you showed up.

[1]any·where /ˈɛniˌweɚ/ *adv*

1 : in, at, or to any place ▪ This type of plant can grow just about *anywhere*. ▪ It's a small camera that you can take practically/virtually *anywhere*. ▪ They gave her permission to go *anywhere* she wanted to. ▪ This kind of thing could happen *anywhere*. ▪ You can sit *anywhere* you like. ▪ He seems to be at home *anywhere* in the world. ▪ I can't find my keys *anywhere*. ▪ I'd know/recognize her *anywhere*. ▪ They produce some of the finest wines made *anywhere*. ▪ He never walks *anywhere*. He always drives. ▪ I'll take you *anywhere* you want to go. ▪ I heard that she might be quitting, but she says she's not going *anywhere*. [=she says that she's staying] ▪ This bird species is not found ***anywhere else*** in the world. [=the bird is not found at any other place in the world] ▪ I wouldn't want to live *anywhere else*. ▪ These plants don't grow ***just anywhere***. They need lots of sun. — often used figuratively ▪ His career isn't ***going anywhere***. [=his career is not making progress; his career is not becoming more successful; his career is going nowhere] ▪ It seemed like a good idea, but it never ***went anywhere***. [=it never produced any useful results] ▪ We're working hard but we don't seem to be ***getting anywhere***. [=we don't seem to be making progress] ▪ Arguing will not ***get us anywhere***. [=arguing will not help us solve the problem] ▪ Our efforts to get more information didn't ***lead anywhere***. [=our efforts were not successful]

2 : [1]SOMEWHERE — used in questions ▪ Did you go *anywhere* while on your vacation? ▪ Have you been ***anywhere else*** in Europe?

3 — used to give added emphasis to *near* and *close* ▪ The police wouldn't let us get *anywhere near* the accident scene. ▪ The dog barks if you come *anywhere near* him. ▪ The company hasn't come *anywhere near/close* to meeting its goals. ▪ We're not *anywhere close* to being done. [=we're very far from being done] ▪ The movie was not *anywhere near* as good [=the movie was not nearly as good] as I expected it to be.

4 — used to indicate a range of amounts, values, etc. ▪ The house's value is estimated at *anywhere* from $200,000 to $220,000. ▪ The plants can live *anywhere* between 50 and 100 years. ▪ The procedure can take *anywhere* from/between two to four hours to complete.

[2]anywhere *noun* [*noncount*]

1 : any place — usually used after *from* ▪ It's a short drive *from anywhere* in the region. — sometimes used figuratively ▪ They live ***miles from anywhere***. [=they live in a place that is very far from other people]

2 : [2]SOMEWHERE — used in questions ▪ Do you know *anywhere* I can buy cheap furniture? ▪ Do you need *anywhere* to stay tonight?

AOB *abbr, Brit* any other business — used at the end of a list of things to be discussed in a business meeting to indicate that new topics may be introduced

A–OK /ˌeɪoʊˈkeɪ/ *adj, US, informal* **:** entirely good or satisfactory **:** perfectly OK ▪ Everything is *A-OK*.
– A–OK *adv* ▪ Everything is going *A-OK*.

A1 /ˈeɪˈwʌn/ *adj, informal + somewhat old-fashioned* **:** very good or excellent ▪ The car's in *A1* condition.

aor·ta /eɪˈoɚtə/ *noun, pl* **-tas** [*count*] **:** the large artery that brings blood from the heart to the rest of the body
– aor·tic /eɪˈoɚtɪk/ *adj* ▪ a tear in the *aortic* wall

apace /əˈpeɪs/ *adv* **:** at a fast speed or pace **:** QUICKLY ▪ Development on the project continued/proceeded *apace*. ▪ growing *apace*

apace with **:** going or advancing at the same rate as (something) ▪ The company has been struggling to ***keep/stay apace with*** [=*keep up with*] the latest developments.

Apache /əˈpæʧi/ *noun, pl* **Apache** *or* **Apaches** [*count*] **:** a member of a Native American people of the southwestern U.S.

[1]apart /əˈpɑɚt/ *adv*

1 : separated by an amount of space ▪ He stood with his feet planted far/wide *apart*. ▪ with legs *apart* ▪ They live five miles *apart* (from each other). ▪ The garage stands *apart* from the house. [=the garage is separate from the house] ▪ He stood *apart* while the other members of the team celebrated. ▪ They started fighting and it took four people to pull them *apart* (from each other). [=to separate them] — often used figuratively ▪ She tried to keep *apart* from [=to stay out of] family arguments. ▪ She has a quality that sets her *apart* from other singers. [=that makes her different from other singers] ▪ They were close friends once, but they have ***drifted/grown apart***. [=they are no longer close friends] ▪ They are far *apart* on most issues. = They are ***worlds/poles apart*** on most issues.

[=they disagree very much on most issues] ▪ The neighborhood she lives in now is ***a world apart*** from [=is completely different from] the small town where she grew up.

2 : separated by an amount of time ▪ Their children were born two years *apart*.

3 : not together ▪ My wife and I are unhappy when we're *apart*. ▪ They separated and have been living *apart* for the past year.

4 : into parts or pieces ▪ He took the clock *apart*. ▪ The old couch is falling *apart*. = The old couch is ***coming apart at the seams***. ▪ blast/blow/break/fly *apart* ▪ cut/pry/pull *apart* ▪ rip/tear/split *apart*

5 — used to say that something is not included in a statement that follows ▪ A few minor flaws *apart* [=*aside*], the novel is excellent. [=except for a few minor flaws, the novel is excellent]

apart from **1** : not including (something) : with the exception of (something) ▪ The potatoes were a little salty, but *apart from* [=*except for*] that, the food was very good. **2** : other than (something) : BESIDES ▪ *Apart from* his work, his only real interest is baseball. ▪ The work has value in itself, ***quite apart from*** the good effects it produces. ▪ I don't like it. ***Apart from anything else***, it's too expensive. **3** : separately from (something) ▪ This problem needs to be considered *apart from* the other issues.

[2]apart *adj, not used before a noun* : separate or different from others ▪ in a place *apart* ▪ a man *apart* ▪ Those athletes are ***a breed apart***. [=they are not like other people; they are a special type of people]

– apart•ness *noun* [*noncount*]

apart•heid /əˈpɑɚˌteɪt/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a former social system in South Africa in which black people and people from other racial groups did not have the same political and economic rights as white people and were forced to live separately from white people

apart•ment /əˈpɑɚtmənt/ *noun, pl* **-ments** [*count*]

1 *chiefly US* : a usually rented room or set of rooms that is part of a building and is used as a place to live ▪ We lived in an *apartment* for several years before buying a house. — compare CONDOMINIUM, [2]FLAT

2 *Brit* : a large and impressive room or set of rooms — usually plural ▪ the Royal *apartments*

apartment building *noun, pl* **~ -ings** [*count*] *US* : a large building that has several or many apartments ▪ We lived in an *apartment building* for several years before buying a house. — called also (*US*) *apartment house*, (*Brit*) *apartment block*, (*Brit*) *block of flats*

ap•a•thet•ic /ˌæpəˈθɛtɪk/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : not having or showing much emotion or interest ▪ Young people are becoming increasingly *apathetic*. ▪ a politically *apathetic* [=*indifferent, uninterested*] generation ▪ the *apathetic* attitude of the public ▪ As a teenager, he was *apathetic* about his future. [=he didn't care about his future] ▪ Surprisingly, most Americans are *apathetic* toward/about this important issue.

– ap•a•thet•ic•al•ly /ˌæpəˈθɛtɪkli/ *adv*

ap•a•thy /ˈæpəθi/ *noun* : the feeling of not having much emotion or interest : an apathetic state [*noncount*] People have shown surprising *apathy* toward/about these important social problems. ▪ Many commentators are surprised by the *apathy* [=*indifference*] of the country's voters. ▪ voter *apathy* ▪ a culture of *apathy* [=a culture in which people do not care about things] [*singular*] People have shown a surprising *apathy* toward/about these problems.

[1]ape /ˈeɪp/ *noun, pl* **apes** [*count*]

1 : a type of animal (such as a chimpanzee or gorilla) that is closely related to monkeys and humans and that is covered in hair and has no tail or a very short tail

2 *informal* : a large and stupid or rude person ▪ Her boyfriend's some big *ape* she met at a party.

– apelike *adj* [*more ~; most ~*]

[2]ape *verb* **apes**; **aped**; **ap•ing** [+ *obj*] *often disapproving* : to copy or imitate (something or someone) ▪ After years of *aping* [=*mimicking*] the styles of famous artists, he has created his own unique way of painting. ▪ She *apes* the speech and manners of the rich.

[3]ape *adj*

go ape *informal* **1** : to become very excited ▪ The kids *go ape* [=*go crazy, go wild*] whenever they hear that song. **2** : to become very angry ▪ Mom really *went ape* [=*went ballistic, blew her top*] when I got home late.

aper•i•tif /əˌperəˈti:f/ *noun, pl* **-tifs** [*count*] : an alcoholic drink that people drink before eating a meal ▪ They served us champagne as an *aperitif*.

ap•er•ture /ˈæpəʧɚ/ *noun, pl* **-tures** [*count*]

1 *formal* : a hole or small opening in something ▪ We entered the cave through a narrow *aperture*.

2 *technical* : an opening that controls the amount of light that passes through a lens (such as a camera lens) ▪ The photograph was taken using a fast shutter speed and a large *aperture*.

apex /ˈeɪˌpɛks/ *noun, pl* **apex•es** [*count*] : the top or highest point of something — usually singular ▪ the mountain's *apex* [=*peak, summit*] — usually used figuratively ▪ Tragically, she died at the *apex* [=*acme, high point*] of her career/fame. ▪ The excitement was about to reach its *apex*.

aphid /ˈeɪfəd/ *noun, pl* **aphids** [*count*] : a very small insect that harms plants

aph•o•rism /ˈæfəˌrɪzəm/ *noun, pl* **-risms** [*count*] : a short phrase that expresses a true or wise idea : ADAGE ▪ When decorating, remember the familiar *aphorism*, "less is more."

– aph•o•ris•tic /ˌæfəˈrɪstɪk/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] ▪ her *aphoristic* wisdom **– aph•o•ris•tic•al•ly** /ˌæfəˈrɪstɪkli/ *adj*

aph•ro•di•si•ac /ˌæfrəˈdi:ziˌæk/ *noun, pl* **-acs** [*count*] : something (such as a food, drink, or drug) that causes or increases sexual desire

– aphrodisiac *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] ▪ an *aphrodisiac* drug

apiece /əˈpi:s/ *adv, always used after a noun* : for or to each person or thing : EACH ▪ They're selling tickets at/for 10 dollars *apiece*. [=each ticket costs 10 dollars] ▪ His shoes weigh four pounds *apiece*. ▪ She gave the kids a dollar *apiece*. [=she gave a dollar to each kid]

aplenty /əˈplɛnti/ *adj, always used after a noun* : in a large number or amount ▪ There are books *aplenty* on this subject. [=there are many books on this subject] ▪ We found mistakes *aplenty* in their story. ✧ *Aplenty* has an old-fashioned quality, but it is still commonly used today.

aplomb /əˈplɑ:m/ *noun* [*noncount*] : confidence and skill shown especially in a difficult situation ▪ He showed/demonstrated great *aplomb* in dealing with the reporters. — usually used in the phrase ***with aplomb*** ▪ He's handled the reporters *with* great *aplomb*. [=in a confident and skillful way] ▪ She speaks French and German *with* equal *aplomb*.

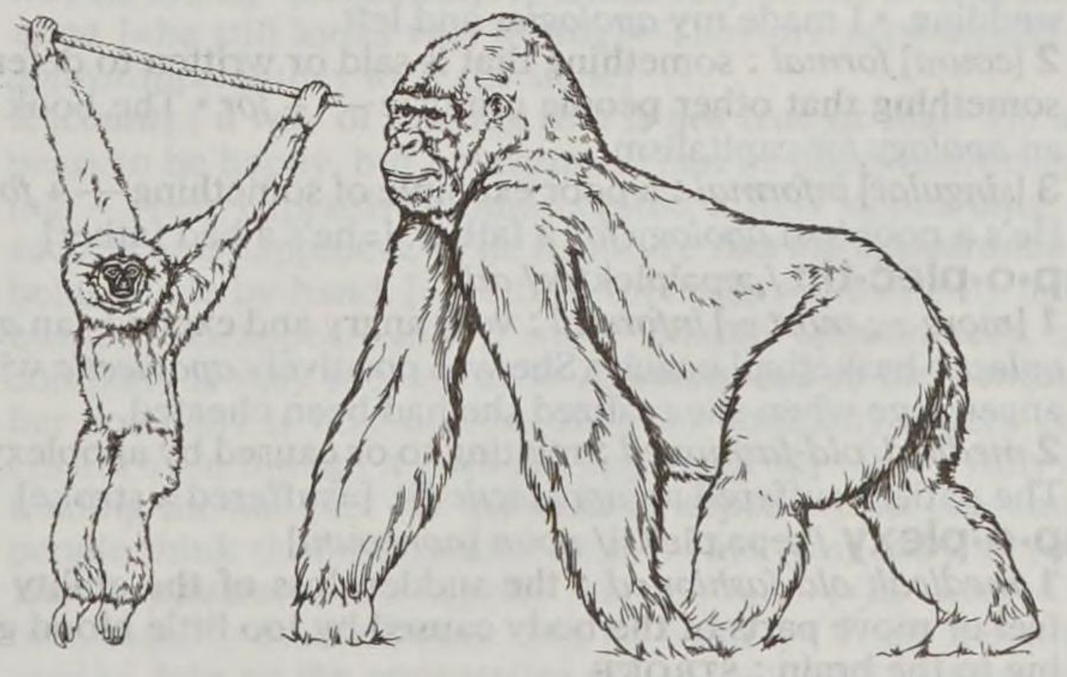
apoc•a•lypse /əˈpɑ:kəˌlɪps/ *noun* [*singular*] : a great disaster : a sudden and very bad event that causes much fear, loss, or destruction ▪ His book tells of an environmental *apocalypse*. ▪ fears of a nuclear *apocalypse* [=a disaster caused by nuclear weapons]

the apocalypse : the end or destruction of the world especially as described in the Christian Bible ▪ Some people be-



ape

chimpanzee **orangutan**



gibbon **gorilla**

A

lieved *the apocalypse* would happen in the year 2000. ▪ waiting for *the apocalypse*

apoc·a·lyp·tic /əˌpɑːkəˈlɪptɪk/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]
1 : of, relating to, or involving terrible violence and destruction ▪ No one listened to her *apocalyptic* predictions/warnings. ▪ a less *apocalyptic* view of the future ▪ an *apocalyptic* battle
2 : of or relating to the end of the world ▪ the *apocalyptic* destruction of the world
– **apoc·a·lyp·tic·al·ly** /əˌpɑːkəˈlɪptɪkli/ *adv*

apoc·ry·phal /əˈpɑːkrəfəl/ *adj* : well-known but probably not true ▪ an *apocryphal* story/tale about the president's childhood

apo·gee /ˈæpəʤi/ *noun* [*singular*]
1 *formal* : the highest point of something ▪ The style reached its *apogee* [=(more commonly) *apex*, *high point*] in the mid-1960s.
2 *technical* : the point in outer space where an object traveling around the Earth (such as a satellite or the moon) is farthest away from the Earth — compare PERIGEE

apo·lit·i·cal /ˌeɪpəˈlɪtɪkəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : not political : not interested or involved in politics ▪ Although both of her parents are politicians, she's completely *apolitical*. ▪ an *apolitical* scientific journal
– **apo·lit·i·cal·ly** *adv*

apol·o·get·ic /əˌpɑːləˈʤɛtɪk/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : feeling or showing regret : expressing an apology ▪ We received an *apologetic* letter and a full refund from the company. ▪ an *apologetic* smile ▪ They were *apologetic* about the mistake. ▪ She seemed almost *apologetic* about buying a new car.
– **apol·o·get·i·cal·ly** /əˌpɑːləˈʤɛtɪkli/ *adv* ▪ He smiled *apologetically*. ▪ "I'm sorry I'm late," she said *apologetically*.

apol·o·gist /əˈpɑːləʤɪst/ *noun, pl* **-gists** [*count*] : a person who defends or supports something (such as a religion, cause, or organization) that is being criticized or attacked by other people ▪ the film industry's *apologists* [=people who write and speak in support of the film industry] — often + *for* ▪ an *apologist for* the film industry

apol·o·gize *also Brit* **apol·o·gise** /əˈpɑːləˌʤaɪz/ *verb* **-giz·es**; **-gized**; **-giz·ing** [*no obj*] : to express regret for doing or saying something wrong : to give or make an apology ▪ He *apologized* to his wife and children for losing his temper. ▪ I want to *apologize* (to you) for what I said. I didn't mean it, and I'm sorry if it hurt your feelings. ▪ We *apologize* for the mistake and promise that it won't happen again. ▪ She ***doesn't apologize for*** her lifestyle. [=she does not believe that her lifestyle is wrong]

apol·o·gy /əˈpɑːləʤi/ *noun, pl* **-gies**
1 a : a statement saying that you are sorry about something : an expression of regret for having done or said something wrong [*count*] The company issued/delivered an official *apology* to its customers for its error. ▪ Please accept our sincerest/humblest *apologies* for any problems we may have caused. ▪ I demand an *apology*! ▪ I owe you an *apology*. = You deserve an *apology*. ▪ a written *apology* ▪ He made a public *apology* for his controversial remarks. ▪ He refused to accept my *apology*. ▪ She ***makes no apologies for*** her lifestyle. [=she does not believe that her lifestyle is wrong] ▪ He ***offered no apology for*** his bad behavior. [=he didn't say he was sorry for acting badly] [*noncount*] We received a letter/note of *apology* from the company. ▪ ***Without apology*** [=without excusing himself or saying he was sorry], he got up and left the room.
b ***apologies*** [*plural*] : an expression of regret for not being able to do something ▪ Please give my *apologies* [=*excuses*] to your cousin. I'm sorry that I won't be able to come to the wedding. ▪ I made my *apologies* and left.
2 [*count*] *formal* : something that is said or written to defend something that other people criticize — + *for* ▪ The book is an *apology for* capitalism.
3 [*singular*] *informal* : a poor example of something — + *for* ▪ He's a poor/sad *apology for* a father. [=he's a bad father]

ap·o·plec·tic /ˌæpəˈplɛktɪk/ *adj*
1 [*more* ~; *most* ~] *informal* : very angry and excited ▪ an *apoplectic* basketball coach ▪ She was positively *apoplectic* with anger/rage when she realized she had been cheated.
2 *medical, old-fashioned* : relating to or caused by apoplexy ▪ The patient suffered an *apoplectic* fit. [=suffered a stroke]

ap·o·plexy /ˈæpəˌplɛksi/ *noun* [*noncount*]
1 *medical, old-fashioned* : the sudden loss of the ability to feel or move parts of the body caused by too little blood going to the brain : STROKE
2 *informal* : great anger and excitement ▪ Her speech caused *apoplexy* among the audience members.

apos·tate /əˈpɑːˌsteɪt/ *noun, pl* **-tates** [*count*] *formal* : someone whose beliefs have changed and who no longer belongs to a religious or political group
– **apos·ta·sy** /əˈpɑːstəsi/ *noun* [*noncount*]

a pos·te·ri·o·ri /ɑˌpoʊˌstiriˈori/ *adj, formal* : relating to what can be known by observation rather than through an understanding of how certain things work ▪ an *a posteriori* judgment/justification/explanation — compare A PRIORI
– **a posteriori** *adv* ▪ You can't justify what you did *a posteriori*.

apos·tle /əˈpɑːsəɫ/ *noun, pl* **apos·tles** [*count*]
1 : any one of the 12 men chosen by Jesus Christ to spread the Christian religion ▪ Christ's *apostles*
2 : someone who believes in or supports an idea, cause, etc. — often + *of* ▪ *apostles* [=*adherents*, *advocates*] *of* peace and nonviolence ▪ an *apostle of* democracy

ap·os·tol·ic /ˌæpəˈstɑːlɪk/ *adj*
1 : of or relating to the original 12 apostles
2 : of or relating to the pope : PAPAL ▪ *apostolic* authority

apos·tro·phe /əˈpʰɑːstrəfi/ *noun, pl* **-phes** [*count*]
1 : the punctuation mark ' used to show that letters or numbers are missing (as when "did" and "not" are combined into "didn't" or when the date 1776 is written as '76) ▪ In the contraction "can't," an *apostrophe* replaces two of the letters in the word "cannot."
2 : the punctuation mark ' used to show the possessive form of a noun (as in "Lee's book" or "the tree's leaves")
3 : the punctuation mark ' used to show the plural forms of letters or numbers (as in "dot your *i's* and cross your *t's*" or "in the 1960's")

apoth·e·cary /əˈpɑːθəˌkeri/ *noun, pl* **-car·ies** [*count*] : a person who prepared and sold medicines in past times

apo·the·o·sis /əˌpɑːθiˈoʊsəs/ *noun, pl* **-oses** /-ˌsiːz/ [*count*] *formal*
1 : the perfect form or example of something — usually singular ▪ a dish that is the *apotheosis* of French cuisine
2 : the highest or best part of something — usually singular ▪ His music reaches/achieves its *apotheosis* [=*peak*, *pinnacle*] in this album.

app /ˈæp/ *noun, pl* **apps** [*count*] *chiefly US, computers, informal* : APPLICATION 4 ▪ a popular *app* — see also KILLER APP

ap·pall *(US) or Brit* **ap·pal** /əˈpɑːl/ *verb* **-palls**; **-palled**; **-pall·ing** [+ *obj*] : to cause (someone) to feel fear, shock, or disgust ▪ The thought of war *appalls* me. ▪ It *appalls* me to think of the way those children have been treated. — often used as *(be) appalled* ▪ We *were appalled* at how long it took for our food to be served. = We *were appalled* that it took so long. ▪ She *was appalled* by/at their behavior.

ap·pall·ing /əˈpɑːlɪŋ/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : very bad in a way that causes fear, shock, or disgust ▪ We drove by an *appalling* accident on the highway. ▪ Your behavior has been *appalling*. [=*atrocious*, *outrageous*, *terrible*]
– **ap·pall·ing·ly** *adv* ▪ *appallingly* bad treatment ▪ an *appallingly* [=*dreadfully*] bad movie

ap·pa·rat·chik /ˌɑːpəˈrɑːʧɪk/ *noun, pl* **-chiks** [*count*] *disapproving* : a very loyal member of an organization (such as a company or political party) who always obeys orders ▪ corporate/party/political *apparatchiks*

ap·pa·ra·tus /ˌæpəˈrætəs/ *noun, pl* **apparatus·es** *or* **apparatus**
1 : a tool or piece of equipment used for specific activities [*count*] She fell off a gymnastics *apparatus* and broke her leg. ▪ an electrical *apparatus* [*noncount*] an expensive piece of *apparatus* [=*machinery*]
2 [*count*] : the organization or system used for doing or operating something — usually singular ▪ The country lacks a strong state/government *apparatus*. [=a strong government] ▪ The party *apparatus* [=*machinery*] supported his ideas.

ap·par·el /əˈperəl/ *noun* [*noncount*] *formal* : clothing of a particular kind ▪ fine *apparel* — used chiefly in U.S. English to refer to clothing that is being sold in stores ▪ a new line of children's/ladies'/men's *apparel* ▪ All athletic *apparel* [=all clothing for exercising or playing sports] is now on sale. ▪ intimate *apparel* [=underwear and clothes for sleeping]

ap·par·ent /əˈperənt/ *adj*
1 [*more* ~; *most* ~] : easy to see or understand ▪ The other team's superiority was *apparent* [=*evident*] in the first half of the game. ▪ The truth is *apparent* to me. [=I can clearly see the truth] ▪ Her reasons for leaving were readily *apparent*. [=were obvious or easy to see] ▪ When we left, they were in no *apparent* danger. [=they did not appear to be in any dan-

ger] ▪ From the beginning, it was *apparent* that she was not an ordinary child. ▪ It soon/quickly became *apparent* (to us) that something was wrong. ▪ He started yelling and throwing things ***for no apparent reason***

2 *always used before a noun* : seeming to be true but possibly not true ▪ We disagreed on the *apparent* meaning of the movie. ▪ He died of an *apparent* heart attack. [=it appears that a heart attack caused his death] ▪ What was the *apparent* cause of the accident?

ap•par•ent•ly /əˈperəntli/ *adv* — used to describe something that appears to be true based on what is known ▪ The window had *apparently* been forced open. ▪ We were surprised when their *apparently* [=*seemingly*, *ostensibly*] happy marriage ended after only two years. ▪ *Apparently*, he died of a heart attack. = He died of a heart attack, *apparently*. = He *apparently* died of a heart attack. [=it appears that a heart attack caused his death] ▪ "Did the bus leave without us?" "*Apparently* (so)." [=yes, that seems/appears to be the case] ▪ "Is the bus still here?" "*Apparently* not."

ap•pa•ri•tion /ˌæpəˈrɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** [*count*] *formal* : a ghost or spirit of a dead person ▪ People say there are ghostly *apparitions* [=*ghosts*, *phantoms*] in this house. ▪ a strange *apparition*

[1]ap•peal /əˈpi:l/ *noun, pl* **-peals**

1 [*noncount*] : a quality that causes people to like someone or something ▪ I can't understand the *appeal* of skydiving. [=I can't understand why some people like it] ▪ Music never held much *appeal* [=*attraction*] for him. ▪ Her jokes are quickly losing their *appeal*. ▪ The movie has great *appeal* to/for adults as well as children. [=adults and children like the movie] ▪ the wide/broad/mass/universal *appeal* of the artist's work — see also SEX APPEAL

2 [*count*] **a** : a serious request for help, support, etc. ▪ They made a desperate *appeal* [=*plea*, *entreaty*] for help. ▪ His *appeals* to his father for money were ignored. ▪ The mayor made an *appeal* to the people of the city to stay calm. **b** : an attempt to make someone do or accept something as right or proper by saying things that are directed at a person's feelings, attitudes, etc. — + *to* ▪ The author makes an *appeal to* the reader's emotions. ▪ an *appeal to* reason ▪ an *appeal to* the intellect **c** : an organized effort to raise money ▪ We made a donation during the school's annual *appeal*. ▪ She helped to organize/launch an *appeal* on behalf of the homeless.

3 : a process in which a decision is studied and accepted or rejected by a higher court or by someone in authority [*count*] My lawyer said the court's decision wasn't correct and that we should file for an *appeal*. ▪ lodge an *appeal* [*noncount*] Her conviction was thrown out ***on appeal*** [=a higher court decided that she should not have been convicted] ▪ The case is currently ***under appeal*** [=the case is currently being reviewed by a higher court] — see also COURT OF APPEALS

[2]appeal *verb* **-peals; -pealed; -peal•ing**

1 [*no obj*] : to be liked by someone : to be pleasing or attractive *to* someone ▪ The movie *appeals to* adults as well as (*to*) children. [=adults and children like the movie] ▪ music that *appeals to* a wide variety of people ▪ The idea of going to college *appealed to* him greatly. [=the idea was very appealing to him]

2 [*no obj*] **a** : to ask for something (such as help or support) in a serious way ▪ The government *appealed* for calm. ▪ desperate people who are *appealing* for help ▪ The government *appealed* to the people to stay calm. **b** : to try to make someone do or accept something as right or proper by saying things that are directed at a person's feelings, attitudes, etc. — + *to* ▪ We got them to join by *appealing to* their sense of duty and honor.

3 : to make a formal request for a higher court or for someone in authority to review and change a decision [*no obj*] He *appealed*, arguing that there was not enough evidence to convict him. ▪ She lost the case and *appealed* the following month. ▪ (*Brit*) We plan to ***appeal against*** the court's decision. [+ *obj*] (*US*) ▪ We plan to *appeal* the court's decision. ▪ The ruling can be *appealed* within 30 days. ▪ (*baseball*) The runner was called out at home plate but the manager *appealed* the umpire's decision.

ap•peal•ing /əˈpi:lɪŋ/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : having qualities that people like : pleasing or attractive ▪ a book with an *appealing* title ▪ *appealing* colors ▪ It is an idea that most people will ***find appealing*** [=that most people will like] — often + *to* ▪ The offer is especially *appealing to* young people who are buying their first car. — opposite UNAPPEALING

– **ap•peal•ing•ly** *adv* ▪ Her idea was *appealingly* simple.

appeals court (*US*) *or chiefly Brit* **appeal court** *noun, pl* ~ **courts** [*count*] *law* : COURT OF APPEALS 1

ap•pear /əˈpiə/ *verb* **-pears; -peared; -pear•ing**

1 [*linking verb*] *somewhat formal* : to seem to be something : to make someone think that a person or thing has a particular characteristic : LOOK, SEEM ▪ She *appears* angry. ▪ "Is she angry?" "So it *appears*." = "So it would *appear*." = "It *appears* so." ▪ "Is she pleased?" "It *appears* not." = "It would *appear* not." ▪ She *appears* a nice enough person. ▪ Although everything *appeared* normal to me [=although I thought everything was normal], something was wrong. ▪ Winning the election *appears* unlikely at this point. ▪ Things are not always as they *appear*. [=they are not always what you think they are] ▪ It *appears* to us [=we think] that something should be done. — often followed by *to* + *verb* ▪ She *appeared to be* angry. ▪ She *appears to be* a nice enough person. ▪ Everyone *appeared to have* a good time. = They all *appeared to enjoy* themselves.

2 [*no obj*] : to become visible : to begin to be seen ▪ One by one, the stars *appeared* in the sky. ▪ The sun began to *appear* from behind the clouds. ▪ The airplanes seemed to *appear* out of nowhere. ▪ Her grandfather often *appears* to her in her dreams. [=she often sees her grandfather in her dreams] ▪ The storm disappeared as suddenly as it had *appeared*. — opposite DISAPPEAR

3 [*no obj*] : to arrive at a place : to show up ▪ The cat *appears* at our kitchen door every morning. ▪ One of the guests *appeared* a few minutes late. ▪ He *appeared* a little before eight last night. — opposite DISAPPEAR

4 [*no obj*] : to begin to exist ▪ The disease first *appeared* in the late 1970s. ▪ This new technology first *appears* in Europe in the early 20th century. — opposite DISAPPEAR

5 [*no obj*] : to be seen or heard by the public: such as **a** : to go where you can be seen to give a speech, answer questions, etc. — often + *before* ▪ I was invited to *appear before* a meeting of teachers to talk about the school system. ▪ *appearing before* a group of reporters **b** : to work as an actor or performer in a movie, on the radio, etc. ▪ The two actors *appeared* [=*performed*] together in the film. ▪ He has *appeared* on many radio and television shows. ▪ She *appeared* in her first Broadway musical last year. ▪ Several guest musicians *appeared* on his latest album. **c** : to be published or made available to the public ▪ The story *appeared* on the front page of the newspaper. — often + *in* ▪ We got a lot of phone calls after the story *appeared in* the newspaper. ▪ Her papers have *appeared in* several different scientific journals. ▪ The book ***appeared in print*** [=was published] again a few years ago. ▪ The word first *appeared in print* in 1782.

6 [*no obj*] : to go in front of a person or group that has authority (such as a judge or council) especially in order to answer questions ▪ I *appeared* in front of the committee during its last meeting. ▪ She was instructed to *appear* in court the next morning. ▪ She *appeared* before the judge. ▪ He will be *appearing* as a witness at the trial.

ap•pear•ance /əˈpirəns/ *noun, pl* **-anc•es**

1 *somewhat formal* : the way that someone or something looks [*count*] The room has a neat/fresh/clean *appearance*. [=*look*] ▪ The general *appearance* of the house is quite good. ▪ The museum restored the painting to its original *appearance*. ▪ lotions that improve your skin's *appearance* and texture ▪ It minimizes the *appearance* of wrinkles. [=it makes wrinkles more difficult to see] ▪ You shouldn't judge a man by his *appearance*. ▪ Have you noticed any changes in her *appearance*? ▪ He's very proud of his ***physical appearance***. [=the way he looks] [*noncount*] He is still very youthful ***in appearance***. [=he still looks very young] ▪ They are very similar *in appearance*. [=they look the same]

2 [*count*] : a way of looking that is not true or real ▪ He appears to be happy, but *appearances* can be deceptive/deceiving. ▪ Their expensive home created a false *appearance* of success and happiness. ▪ The furniture ***has the appearance*** of being made by hand. [=the furniture was not made by hand but it looks/appears as if it was] ▪ ***Despite appearances***, her company is very successful. = ***Appearances to the contrary***, her company is very successful. [=her company is very successful even though it does not appear to be] ▪ She is only attending the banquet ***for the sake of appearances***. [=because people think that she should attend] ▪ He was, ***to/by all (outward) appearances***, a happily married man. [=he seemed to be a happily married man, but he wasn't] ▪ Their meetings tend to ***take on the appearance of*** [=to look like] family gatherings. ▪ His white beard ***gave him the appearance of*** an old

A

man. [=made him look like an old man] ▪ The playground ***gives every appearance of*** being a safe place for children [=the playground appears to be a safe place for children], but a tragic accident occurred there recently.

3 [*count*] : the action of appearing : the fact that something or someone arrives or begins to be seen — usually singular ▪ The *appearance* of buds on the trees tells us that spring has arrived. ▪ We were surprised by the *appearance* of smoke in the distance. ▪ I wasn't expecting him to come and was surprised by his sudden *appearance*. [=I was surprised when he suddenly appeared/arrived]

4 [*count*] : the time when something begins to exist or is seen for the first time — usually singular ▪ The *appearance* [=*creation*] of the Internet has changed our culture in many ways. ▪ The technology made its first *appearance* [=appeared for the first time] in the early 1980s. ▪ Before the *appearance* of the telephone, people sent messages by telegraph.

5 [*count*] : an act of being seen or heard by the public as an actor, politician, athlete, etc. ▪ He has announced that this will be his final/last *appearance* with the band. [=the last time that he will perform in public with the band] ▪ This is her first *appearance* [=the first time that she has competed] at/in the national championships. — often used with *make* ▪ She is *making* her first *appearance* at/in the national championships. ▪ Tonight, he is *making* his first ***public appearance*** since winning the award. ▪ He'll be *making* a special ***guest appearance*** [=performing as a guest] on the popular television show next fall.

6 [*count*] : the formal act of going in front of a person or group to speak, answer questions, etc. ▪ One man has been convicted of the crime, and two others are awaiting ***court appearances***. [=waiting to go to court] — often + *before* ▪ He is awaiting his *appearance before* a judge. ▪ She made an *appearance before* Congress last year.

keep up appearances : to hide something bad by pretending that nothing is wrong ▪ Although they were getting a divorce, my parents thought it was important to *keep up appearances*.

make an appearance *or* ***put in an appearance*** : to go to an event, gathering, etc., usually for a short period of time ▪ The candidate *made an appearance* at the rally. ▪ The governor *put in an appearance* at the party.

ap•pease /ə'pi:z/ *verb* **-peas•es**; **-peased**; **-peas•ing** [+ *obj*] *formal*

1 *often disapproving* : to make (someone) pleased or less angry by giving or saying something desired ▪ They *appeased* the dictator by accepting his demands in an effort to avoid war. ▪ Efforts to *appease* [=*pacify*, *placate*] the angry protesters were unsuccessful. ▪ His critics were not *appeased* by this last speech. ▪ They made sacrifices to *appease* the gods.

2 : to make (a pain, a problem, etc.) less painful or troubling ▪ We had no way to *appease* our hunger. ▪ She *appeased* [=*eased*] her guilty conscience by telling him the truth.

– **ap•pease•ment** /ə'pi:zmənt/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the *appeasement* of a dictator ▪ *appeasement* of hunger

ap•pel•lant /ə'pɛlənt/ *noun, pl* **-lants** [*count*] *law* : someone who requests that a higher court review and change the decision of a lower court : someone who appeals a decision

ap•pel•late /ə'pɛlət/ *adj, always used before a noun, law* : having the power to review and change the decisions of a lower court ▪ an *appellate* court ▪ *appellate* judges

ap•pel•la•tion /ˌæpə'leɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** [*count*] *formal* : a name or title ▪ an honorary *appellation*

ap•pend /ə'pɛnd/ *verb* **-pends**; **-pend•ed**; **-pend•ing** [+ *obj*] *formal* : to add (something) to a piece of writing — usually + *to* ▪ Please read the notes *appended to* each chapter.

ap•pend•age /ə'pɛndɪʤ/ *noun, pl* **-ag•es** [*count*]

1 *medical* : a body part (such as an arm or a leg) connected to the main part of the body : LIMB

2 : something connected or joined to a larger or more important thing ▪ The court system acts as an *appendage* to the government. ▪ an *appendage* of a larger political party

ap•pen•dec•to•my /ˌæpən'dɛktəmi/ *noun, pl* **-mies** [*count*] *medical* : an operation to remove a person's appendix ▪ The surgeon performed an *appendectomy* on her.

ap•pen•di•ci•tis /əˌpɛndə'saɪtəs/ *noun* [*noncount*] *medical* : a condition in which a person's appendix is painful and swollen ▪ an attack of *appendicitis*

ap•pen•dix /ə'pɛndɪks/ *noun* [*count*]

1 *pl* ***-dix•es*** *or* ***-di•ces*** /-dɪˌsi:z/ : a section of extra information added at the end of a book ▪ In your textbooks, turn to *Appendix* 3: Glossary of Terms. ▪ The book has several *appendixes/appendices*.

2 *pl* ***-dixes*** : a small tube at the beginning of the large intestine that can be removed by surgery if it becomes infected — see picture at HUMAN

ap•per•tain /ˌæpə'teɪn/ *verb* **-tains**; **-tained**; **-tain•ing** [*no obj*] *formal* : to belong to or be connected or related to something : PERTAIN ▪ the rights and privileges that *appertain* to marriage

ap•pe•tite /'æpəˌtaɪt/ *noun, pl* **-tites**

1 : a physical desire for food [*count*] He has a healthy/good/hearty *appetite*. ▪ men with big/large/gargantuan *appetites* ▪ Delicious smells from the kitchen ***whetted our appetites***. [=made us hungry] ▪ That movie made me ***lose my appetite***. [=I no longer wanted to eat after seeing that movie] [*noncount*] Some common symptoms are tiredness, nausea, and loss of *appetite*. ▪ I had no *appetite* and couldn't sleep.

2 [*count*] : a desire or liking for something ▪ a healthy sexual *appetite* — usually + *for* ▪ He has a voracious *appetite for* books/reading. ▪ She has an *appetite for* adventure. [=she likes adventure; she likes to do adventurous things]

ap•pe•tiz•er *also Brit* **ap•pe•tis•er** /'æpəˌtaɪzə/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : a small dish of food served before the main part of a meal

ap•pe•tiz•ing *also Brit* **ap•pe•tis•ing** /'æpəˌtaɪzɪŋ/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : having a good smell or appearance that makes people want to eat ▪ an *appetizing* [=*delicious*, *tasty*] meal ▪ While the stew may not look very *appetizing*, it tastes wonderful. ▪ an *appetizing* aroma — sometimes used figuratively ▪ an *appetizing* [=*appealing*] display of merchandise

– **ap•pe•tiz•ing•ly** *also Brit* **ap•pe•tis•ing•ly** *adv*

ap•plaud /ə'plɑ:d/ *verb* **-plauds**; **-plaud•ed**; **-plaud•ing**

1 : to strike the hands together over and over to show approval or praise [*no obj*] The audience stood and *applauded* [=*clapped*] at the end of the show. [+ *obj*] Everyone *applauded* the graduates as they entered the auditorium. ▪ The audience stood and *applauded* her performance.

2 [+ *obj*] : to express approval of or support for (something or someone) ▪ They *applauded* [=*praised*] the change in policy. ▪ We *applaud* the decision to lower taxes. ▪ I *applaud* their efforts to clean up the city, but they must do more. ▪ Although he didn't succeed in the end, he should be *applauded* [=*praised*] for his efforts. ▪ Rather than being criticized for her honesty, she should be *applauded* for it.

ap•plause /ə'plɑ:z/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a show of approval or appreciation at a play, speech, sporting event, etc., in which people strike their hands together over and over ▪ He accepted the award to thunderous *applause*. [=people applauded very loudly as he accepted the award] ▪ The announcement was greeted with *applause* and cheers. ▪ The audience burst into *applause*. [=began applauding/clapping loudly] ▪ The audience gave the performers a big ***round of applause***. [=*hand*]

ap•ple /'æpəl/ *noun, pl* **ap•ples** : a round fruit with red, yellow, or green skin and firm white flesh [*count*] crisp juicy *apples* ▪ a bad/rotten *apple* [=an apple that has rotted and cannot be eaten] [*noncount*] a piece of *apple* — often used before another noun ▪ *apple* pie ▪ *apple* juice ▪ *apple* trees — see color picture on page C5 ✧ In figurative use, a ***bad apple*** or ***rotten apple*** is a bad member of a group who causes problems for the rest of the group. ▪ A few *bad apples* cheated on the test, and now everyone has to take the test again. ▪ One *rotten apple* ruined the day for the rest of us. — see also ADAM'S APPLE, CRAB APPLE

compare apples to apples/oranges see ¹COMPARE

the apple of someone's eye : a person or thing that someone loves very much ▪ His daughter is *the apple of his eye*.

upset the apple cart see ²UPSET

apple–cheeked /'æpəlˌʧi:kt/ *adj* : having red or pink cheeks ▪ *apple-cheeked* youngsters

apple pie *noun, pl* ~ **pies** [*count*] : a sweet pie made with apples

(as) American as apple pie : very or typically American ▪ Baseball is *as American as apple pie*.

in apple-pie order *informal* : arranged neatly or perfectly : in perfect order ▪ Everything in the cupboard was (arranged) *in apple-pie order*.

apple polisher *noun, pl* ~ **-ers** [*count*] *US, informal* + *disapproving* : a person who tries to get the approval and friendship of someone in authority by praise, flattery, etc. ▪ an executive surrounded by *apple polishers*

ap•ple•sauce /'æpəlˌsɑ:s/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a sweet sauce made from cooked apples

ap•pli•ance /ə'plajəns/ *noun, pl* **-anc•es** [*count*] : a

machine (such as a stove, microwave, or dishwasher) that is powered by electricity and that is used in people's houses to perform a particular job ▪ All household/domestic *appliances* are now on sale. ▪ an *appliance* store

ap•pli•ca•ble /ˈæplɪkəbəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : able to be applied or used in a particular situation ▪ Businesses must comply with all *applicable* laws. — often + *to* ▪ The rule is not *applicable* [=*relevant*] *to* this case. ▪ This method is *applicable to* a variety of problems.

– **ap•pli•ca•bil•i•ty** /ˌæplɪkəˈbɪləti/ *noun* [*noncount*]

ap•pli•cant /ˈæplɪkənt/ *noun, pl* **-cants** [*count*] : someone who formally asks for something (such as a job or admission to a college) : someone who applies for something ▪ successful college/job *applicants* ▪ We interviewed 30 qualified *applicants* for the job.

ap•pli•ca•tion /ˌæpləˈkeɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions**

1 a : a formal and usually written request for something (such as a job, admission to a school, a loan, etc.) [*count*] We've made an *application* for certification. [=we have applied to be certified] ▪ Our loan *application* has been approved/denied. ▪ Anyone interested in running for office must file/submit an *application* by August 1st. [*noncount*] If you'd like to be considered for the job, please send us a ***letter of application*** that gives your experience and qualifications. **b** [*count*] : a document that is used to make a formal request for something ▪ Please fill out this *application*.

2 : the act of applying something: such as **a :** the act of putting something on a surface, a part of the body, etc. [*noncount*] The *application* of heat often helps sore muscles. ▪ I prefer using the lotion because of its ease of *application*. [=because it is easy to apply] ▪ Repeated *application* of fertilizer will help the grass become green and healthy. [*count*] Repeated *applications* of fertilizer will help the grass become green and healthy. ▪ The cut should be treated with a generous/liberal *application* of ointment. **b :** the use of an idea, method, law, etc., in a particular situation or for a particular purpose [*noncount*] Strict *application* of the rules is necessary in this case. ▪ the *application* of new information ▪ learning about the creative *application* [=*use*] of new technology [*count*] He teaches his students about the practical *applications* [=*uses*] of technology. ▪ I think it is a fair *application* of the law. ▪ *applications* of science to everyday life **c** [*noncount*] : the use of a word, name, etc., to describe someone or something ▪ the *application* of the term "baby boomer" to people who were born right after World War II

3 : the ability to be used for practical purposes [*noncount*] The technique has wide/limited *application*. [=it can/cannot be used for a large number of practical purposes] [*count*] The tool has a number of *applications*. = The tool has a wide range of *applications*.

4 [*count*] *computers* : a computer program that performs a particular task (such as word processing) ▪ How many *applications* is your computer currently running? ▪ *applications* software — called also (*chiefly US, informal*) *app*

5 [*noncount*] *formal* : effort made to work hard in order to complete something successfully ▪ She succeeded because of *application* and intelligence.

ap•pli•ca•tor /ˈæplə,keɪtɚ/ *noun, pl* **-tors** [*count*] : a tool that is used to put something (such as paint or makeup) on a surface : a tool that is used to apply something ▪ a paint *applicator*

ap•plied /əˈplaɪd/ *adj* : having or relating to practical use : not theoretical ▪ a professor of *applied* science ▪ *applied* linguistics/physics/psychology

ap•pli•qué /ˌæpləˈkeɪ, *Brit* əˈpli:keɪ/ *noun, pl* **-qués** : a decoration that is sewn onto a larger piece of cloth [*count*] colorful *appliqués* [*noncount*] a strip of *appliqué*

– **appliqué** *verb* **-qués**; **-quéd**; **-qué•ing** [+ *obj*] ▪ They *appliquéd* their sweaters with colorful strips.

ap•ply /əˈplaɪ/ *verb* **-plies**; **-plied**; **-ply•ing**

1 [*no obj*] : to ask formally for something (such as a job, admission to a school, a loan, etc.) usually in writing ▪ For further information, *apply* to the address below. ▪ I *applied* in writing to several different companies. ▪ You must have a high school diploma for this job. High school dropouts ***need not apply***. — often + *for* ▪ I *applied for* several jobs and was offered one. ▪ Anyone can *apply for* membership. ▪ We *applied* to the bank *for* a loan. ▪ To *apply for* our credit card, just fill out this form and send it to us. ▪ Many high school students have begun ***applying for college*** [=asking to be accepted as students at colleges or universities by filling out and sending applications] — sometimes followed by *to* + *verb* ▪ Anyone can *apply to become* a member.

2 [+ *obj*] : to put or spread (something) on a surface, a part of the body, etc. ▪ After *applying* a thin layer of paint to the wall and letting it dry, *apply* another coat. ▪ We *applied* the ointment to the cut. ▪ I washed my face and *applied* fresh makeup. ▪ Fertilizer was *applied* to the lawn every two weeks.

3 [+ *obj*] : to cause (force, pressure, etc.) to have an effect or to be felt ▪ He was able to stop the bleeding by *applying* pressure to the cut. [=by pressing on/against the cut] ▪ He knows how to *apply* [=*use, exert*] pressure to get what he wants. ▪ The police should have been able to deal with the situation without *applying* [=*using*] force.

4 [+ *obj*] : to use (an idea, method, law, etc.) in a particular situation ▪ Try to solve the math problems by *applying* the formulas/methods that we learned in class. ▪ They *applied* a new technique to solve an old problem. ▪ We can handle these problems effectively if we *apply* the lessons learned from past experiences. ▪ They *apply* what they learned in school to their everyday lives. ▪ The law has not been *applied* fairly. [=has not been used in a fair way]

5 [+ *obj*] : to cause (the brakes of a vehicle) to work ▪ Take your foot off the gas pedal and slowly *apply* the brakes.

6 [*no obj*] : to have an effect on someone or something ▪ The rule no longer *applies*. ▪ The same principle *applies* [=can be used] when you are trying to lose weight. — often + *to* ▪ The ban *applies* [=*relates, pertains*] *to* all guns that are not used for hunting. ▪ These rules *apply to* everyone in the school. [=everyone in the school must obey these rules] ▪ This *applies* equally *to* men and (*to*) women. ▪ The rule doesn't *apply to* you, so don't worry about it.

7 : to use a word, name, etc., to describe someone or something — usually + *to* [*no obj*] The term "baby boomer" usually *applies to* people who were born immediately after World War II. [+ *obj*] The author *applies* the name/label *to* corrupt politicians. — often used as *(be) applied* ▪ The term "baby boomer" *is* usually *applied to* people who were born immediately after World War II.

apply yourself : to make yourself work hard in order to complete something successfully ▪ If you *apply yourself*, you might be able to finish the project on time. ▪ She *applied herself* to learning the language.

ap•point /əˈpɔɪnt/ *verb* **-points**; **-point•ed**; **-point•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to choose (someone) to have a particular job : to give (someone) a position or duty ▪ The President *appointed* [=*named, designated*] him (as) Secretary of Education. ▪ She was *appointed* professor of chemistry at the university. ▪ After his parents died, the boy's uncle was *appointed* as his guardian. ▪ Every year, the group *appoints* three new members. ▪ a committee *appointed* by Congress ▪ the company's newly *appointed* assistant director ▪ The defendant will be represented by a ***court-appointed attorney***. [=a lawyer chosen by a court to defend someone who has been accused of a crime] — often + *to* ▪ *appointing* women *to* positions of power ▪ She was *appointed to* the position last year. — often followed by *to* + *verb* ▪ He has been *appointed to serve* as president of the club. ▪ A young lawyer was *appointed to represent* the accused man. — see also SELF-APPOINTED

2 *formal* **a :** to decide or establish (something) in an official way — usually used as *appointed* ▪ She wasn't able to accomplish her *appointed* tasks. [=the things that she was supposed to do] ▪ We will not deviate/stray from our *appointed* course. ▪ doctors on their *appointed* rounds **b :** to decide (the time or place at which something will happen or be done) — usually used as *appointed* ▪ We were all ready at the *appointed* time/hour. ▪ on the *appointed* day ▪ Call me when you reach the *appointed* place/location.

3 : to decorate and put furniture in (a room or space) — usually used as *(be) appointed* ▪ Each suite *is appointed* with handmade furniture and original artwork. ▪ We stayed in one of the hotel's beautifully *appointed* rooms. — see also WELL-APPOINTED

– **ap•poin•tee** /əˌpɔɪnˈti:/ *noun, pl* **-tees** [*count*] ▪ presidential *appointees* [=people chosen by the President to fill a position] ▪ He was a political *appointee*, not an elected official.

ap•point•ment /əˈpɔɪntmənt/ *noun, pl* **-ments**

1 : an agreement to meet with someone at a particular time [*count*] I'm late for an *appointment*. ▪ I have a doctor's *appointment* tomorrow morning at nine o'clock. ▪ dental/dentist's *appointments* ▪ She ***made an appointment*** (to meet) with her professor. ▪ We are calling to ***confirm your appointment*** with Dr. Jones. = We are calling to make sure that you will

A

keep your appointment with Dr. Jones. [*noncount*] The museum is open to visitors ***by appointment*** only. [=you have to make an appointment to visit the museum]

2 [*noncount*] : the act of giving a particular job or position to someone : the act of appointing someone ▪ The court ordered the *appointment* of an attorney to represent the child. ▪ the *appointment* of a committee ▪ the *appointment* of the new secretary of state ▪ Did he get his job by *appointment* or election?

3 [*count*] : a job or duty that is given to a person : a position to which someone is appointed ▪ He now holds an *appointment* from the President. ▪ academic *appointments* ▪ her *appointment* as ambassador to Spain

ap•por•tion /əˈpoɚʃən/ *verb* **-tions**; **-tioned**; **-tion•ing** [+ *obj*] *formal* : to divide (something) *among* or *between* people ▪ The proceeds from the auction will be *apportioned among* the descendents. ▪ *Apportion* the expenses *between* the parties involved. : to give (a part of something) to a number of people ▪ The agency *apportions* water from the lake to residents. ▪ Any attempt to ***apportion blame*** [=to say who should be blamed] so many years after the incident is pointless.

– **ap•por•tion•ment** /əˈpoɚʃənmənt/ *noun, pl* **-ments** [*noncount*] The *apportionment* of the expenses will take some time. [*count*] an *apportionment* of blame

ap•po•site /ˈæpəzət/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *formal* : very appropriate : suitable for the occasion or situation ▪ an *apposite* quotation ▪ The poem was an *apposite* [=(more commonly) *apt*] choice for the ceremony. — often + *to* ▪ Each panel member made remarks *apposite* [=*relevant, germane*] *to* the discussion.

– **ap•po•site•ly** *adv*

ap•po•si•tion /ˌæpəˈzɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] *grammar* : an arrangement of words in which a noun or noun phrase is followed by another noun or noun phrase that refers to the same thing ▪ In "my friend the doctor," the word "doctor" is ***in apposition*** to "my friend."

ap•prais•al /əˈpreɪzəl/ *noun, pl* **-als**

1 : the act of judging the value, condition, or importance of something : the act of appraising something [*noncount*] the *appraisal* of some jewelry [*count*] real estate *appraisals* ▪ I made a quick *appraisal* of the situation and decided to leave right away. ▪ Your annual job/performance *appraisal* [=*review, evaluation*] will be in July. [=your boss will meet with you to tell you if you are doing a good or bad job in July]

2 [*count*] : something that states an opinion about the value, condition, or importance of something ▪ The book is an excellent *appraisal* of the influences that have shaped our government.

ap•praise /əˈpreɪz/ *verb* **-prais•es**; **-praised**; **-prais•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to say how much something is worth after you have carefully examined it : to give an official opinion about the value of (something) ▪ She *appraised* the painting at $1.2 million. [=she said that the painting is worth $1.2 million] ▪ The ring must be *appraised* by a jeweler before it can be insured. ▪ *appraise* the house and property ▪ What is the property's *appraised* value?

2 : to give your opinion about the condition, quality, or importance of (something or someone that you have studied or examined) ▪ In the book, he *appraises* Hollywood's recent films and contrasts them with several independent films. ▪ *appraising* recent political trends

Do not confuse *appraise* with *apprise*.

– **ap•prais•er** *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] ▪ The *appraiser* gave us a detailed report on the value of the house and property.

ap•pre•cia•ble /əˈpriːʃəbəl/ *adj* : large enough to be noticed or measured ▪ Researchers found that the chemical made no *appreciable* [=*noticeable, perceptible*] difference in the results. ▪ *Appreciable* [=(more commonly) *significant*] numbers of these plants grow in this region.

– **ap•pre•cia•bly** /əˈpriːʃəbli/ *adv* ▪ Her appearance has not changed *appreciably*. [=*significantly*]

ap•pre•ci•ate /əˈpriːʃiˌeɪt/ *verb* **-ates**; **-at•ed**; **-at•ing**

1 [+ *obj*] : to understand the worth or importance of (something or someone) : to admire and value (something or someone) ▪ The company strives to make its employees feel *appreciated*. ▪ Living in the city has taught me to *appreciate* the differences between people. ▪ Those who *appreciate* fine wine will enjoy reading the restaurant's wine list.

2 [+ *obj*] **a** : to be grateful for (something) ▪ I really *appreciated* the information you gave me. ▪ I don't *appreciate* being ignored. [=I do not like to be ignored] ▪ Your help the other day was greatly *appreciated*. **b** — used to make a polite request ▪ I ***would appreciate it*** if you would tell your father to call me. [=please tell your father to call me]

3 [+ *obj*] : to be aware of (something) : to recognize or understand (something) ▪ I'm not sure you *appreciate* [=*understand*] how crucial it is that we find these documents. ▪ The tiny creature contributes to its ecosystem in ways we are only just beginning to *appreciate*. ▪ I don't think you *appreciate* the complexity of the situation. ▪ I *appreciate* what the artist is trying to do, but I think the painting fails to do it.

4 [*no obj*] : to increase in value ▪ Given the history of the company, your investment should *appreciate* (in value) over time. ▪ rapidly *appreciating* assets — opposite DEPRECIATE

– **ap•pre•cia•tive** /əˈpriːʃətɪv/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ I'm very *appreciative* of your efforts on my behalf. [=I'm very grateful for your efforts] ▪ She gave an *appreciative* nod. [=a nod that showed that she appreciated something]

– **ap•pre•cia•tive•ly** *adv* ▪ She listened to the story, nodding *appreciatively*.

synonyms APPRECIATE, VALUE, PRIZE, TREASURE, and CHERISH mean to feel that something is important and worth treating with special care. APPRECIATE often suggests knowledge that makes it possible to enjoy or admire how excellent something is. ▪ Over the years, I've come to *appreciate* fine wine. VALUE suggests that a thing is worth a lot simply because of what it is. ▪ I *value* our friendship so much. PRIZE is used when you are very proud of something you have or own. ▪ Despite the time and money it demands, he *prizes* that sailboat. TREASURE suggests that you enjoy having or owning something and are careful about keeping it in good condition. ▪ You'll *treasure* these pictures. CHERISH describes a very strong love and desire to care for something or someone. ▪ She *cherishes* her children above all.

ap•pre•ci•a•tion /əˌpriːʃiˈeɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions**

1 [*noncount*] : a feeling of being grateful for something ▪ You've been so generous, and I'd like to show my *appreciation* by cooking a meal for you. ▪ We'd like to present you with this gift ***in appreciation of*** your hard work. [=to show that we are grateful for your hard work]

2 [*singular*] : an ability to understand the worth, quality, or importance of something : an ability to appreciate something ▪ a music *appreciation* class [=a class that teaches people to understand and value music] — usually + *of* or *for* ▪ She has developed an *appreciation of* exotic foods. ▪ There is an increasing *appreciation for* video as an art form.

3 : full awareness or understanding of something — usually + *of* or *for* [*noncount*] She's shown little *appreciation for* the effort you've made. [*singular*] I'm not sure you have an *appreciation of* the complexity of the situation. ▪ I've gained an *appreciation for* the skills involved in the game.

4 [*count*] : a speech or piece of writing that praises something or someone ▪ She recently published an *appreciation* of an obscure sculptor who lived in the 17th century.

5 : an increase in the value of something [*singular*] He bought the statue because he believed there would be an *appreciation* in its value. ▪ Based on the history of the company, you can expect a significant *appreciation* in your investment over a number of years. [*noncount*] There's been no *appreciation* in the stock's value. — opposite DEPRECIATION

ap•pre•hend /ˌæprɪˈhɛnd/ *verb* **-hends**; **-hend•ed**; **-hend•ing** [+ *obj*] *formal*

1 *of police* : to arrest (someone) for a crime : to catch (a criminal or suspect) ▪ Within hours, police had *apprehended* the thief.

2 *somewhat old-fashioned* : to notice and understand (something) : PERCEIVE ▪ subtle differences that are difficult to *apprehend*

ap•pre•hen•sion /ˌæprɪˈhɛnʃən/ *noun, pl* **-sions**

1 : fear that something bad or unpleasant is going to happen : a feeling of being worried about the future [*noncount*] The thought of moving to a new city fills me with *apprehension*. ▪ There is growing *apprehension* [=*fear*] that profits will be lower than expected. [*count*] He has *apprehensions* [=*misgivings*] about the surgery.

2 *formal* : the act of apprehending someone or something: such as **a** : the act of arresting someone for a crime [*noncount*] the sheriff's *apprehension* of the criminal = the criminal's *apprehension* by the sheriff [*count*] an increased number of *apprehensions* **b** [*noncount*] *somewhat old-fashioned* : the act of noticing and understanding something ▪ the *ap-*

prehension [=*perception*] of danger

ap•pre•hen•sive /ˌæprɪˈhɛnsɪv/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : afraid that something bad or unpleasant is going to happen : feeling or showing fear or apprehension about the future ▪ He was quite *apprehensive* [=*fearful, uneasy*] about the surgery. ▪ She gave me an *apprehensive* [=*anxious*] look. – **ap•pre•hen•sive•ly** *adv* ▪ She looked at me *apprehensively*. – **ap•pre•hen•sive•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

[1]ap•pren•tice /əˈprɛntəs/ *noun, pl* **-tic•es** [*count*] : a person who learns a job or skill by working for a fixed period of time for someone who is very good at that job or skill ▪ a carpenter's *apprentice* = an *apprentice* to a carpenter — often used before another noun ▪ an *apprentice* carpenter

[2]apprentice *verb* **-tices; -ticed; -tic•ing**

1 [+ *obj*] : to make (someone) an apprentice — usually used as *(be) apprenticed* ▪ He ***was apprenticed to*** a carpenter [=he became a carpenter's apprentice] at the age of 15.

2 [*no obj*] : to work as an apprentice ▪ He *apprenticed* with a master carpenter for two years.

ap•pren•tice•ship /əˈprɛntəsˌʃɪp/ *noun, pl* **-ships** [*count*]

1 : a position as an apprentice ▪ He obtained an *apprenticeship* with a carpenter.

2 : the period of time when a person is an apprentice ▪ He served a two-year *apprenticeship*.

ap•prise /əˈpraɪz/ *verb* **-pris•es; -prised; -pris•ing** [+ *obj*] *formal* : to give information to (someone) : INFORM — usually + *of* ▪ Please *apprise* me *of* any changes in the situation. = Please keep me *apprised of* any changes in the situation. [=please let me know if there are any changes in the situation]

> Do not confuse *apprise* with *appraise*.

[1]ap•proach /əˈproʊʧ/ *verb* **-proach•es; -proached; -proach•ing**

1 a : to move or become near or nearer to something or someone [+ *obj*] The cat *approached* the baby cautiously. ▪ We are *approaching* [=*nearing*] our destination. [*no obj*] The cat *approached* cautiously. ▪ Ease off the gas pedal to slow down as the bend in the road *approaches*. **b** : to move or become near or nearer in time to something [+ *obj*] We are *approaching* the end of the fiscal year. ▪ She is *approaching* retirement. [=she will soon be retiring from her job] [*no obj*] Your birthday is *approaching* fast. = Your birthday is fast *approaching*. [=your birthday is soon]

2 [+ *obj*] **a** : to get close to (an amount or level) ▪ This weekend we're expecting temperatures *approaching* 100 degrees. ▪ The success rates *approach* 90 percent. **b** : to be almost the same as (something or someone) ▪ We were never treated with anything even remotely *approaching* rudeness. [=no one was at all rude to us] ▪ He has a wild laugh that sometimes *approaches* hysteria. ▪ a reproduction that *approaches* the quality of the original painting ▪ When it comes to cooking Italian food, no one can *approach* her. [=no one is as good at cooking Italian food as she is]

3 [+ *obj*] : to start talking to (someone) for some purpose (such as to ask a question or make a request) ▪ The supervisor is quite easy to *approach*, so don't hesitate to bring up any problems you have. ▪ We were advised to never be too aggressive when *approaching* a potential client. — often used as *(be) approached* ▪ He *was approached* about the job but he didn't take it. ▪ I *was approached* by a young boy asking me to make a donation.

4 [+ *obj*] : to begin to deal with or think about (something) ▪ When writing, consider the way your reader will *approach* the text. ▪ She *approached* the problem from a different angle. ▪ I will *approach* the idea with an open mind.

[2]approach *noun, pl* **-proaches**

1 [*count*] : a way of dealing with something : a way of doing or thinking about something ▪ a traditional *approach* ▪ trying a more healthy *approach* — often + *to* ▪ I really admire your direct *approach to* the problem. ▪ Some doctors are trying a radical new *approach to* cancer treatment.

2 [*singular*] : the act of moving or becoming near or nearer to someone or something : the act of approaching ▪ The cat made a cautious *approach*. : an act or occurrence in which something comes nearer ▪ The quiet afternoon was interrupted by the *approach* of a motorboat. ▪ A loud growl warned us of the bear's *approach*. ▪ With the *approach* of summer came longer, hotter days.

3 [*count*] : the act of speaking to someone for some purpose (such as to ask a question or make a request) — often plural ▪ A group of businessmen has made *approaches* to the owners of the club with an offer to buy it.

4 [*count*] : a road or path that leads to a place ▪ This road is the only *approach* to the cabin (that is) not blocked by snow.

5 [*singular*] : something that is similar *to* another thing ▪ These potted herbs are the nearest *approach to* a garden I can manage.

6 [*count*] : the final part of a flight just before landing ▪ The pilot lowered the landing gear as the plane began its *approach*. ▪ The plane was ***on final approach***.

ap•proach•able /əˈproʊʧəbəl/ *adj*

1 [*more* ~; *most* ~] : easy to talk to or deal with ▪ The supervisor is quite *approachable*, so don't hesitate to bring up any problems you have. ▪ The topic is complex but the book itself is very *approachable*. — opposite UNAPPROACHABLE

2 *not used before a noun* : able to be reached or approached ▪ The cabin is *approachable* from several directions.

– **ap•proach•abil•i•ty** /əˌproʊʧəˈbɪlətɪ/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ He's known for his *approachability*.

ap•pro•ba•tion /ˌæprəˈbeɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] *formal* : praise or approval ▪ The company has even received the *approbation* of its former critics.

[1]ap•pro•pri•ate /əˈproʊprijət/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : right or suited for some purpose or situation ▪ It's a formal occasion and *appropriate* attire/dress/clothing is expected. [=you are expected to wear formal clothing] ▪ Red wine would have been a more *appropriate* choice with the meal. ▪ We'll need to find an *appropriate* [=*suitable*] place to store the fuel. ▪ Do you think the movie is *appropriate* for small children (to see)? = Do you think it's *appropriate* for small children to see the movie? ▪ The movie is perfectly/entirely *appropriate* to/for people of all ages. — opposite INAPPROPRIATE

– **ap•pro•pri•ate•ly** *adv* ▪ The dinner is formal, so please dress *appropriately*. ▪ She met her husband, ***appropriately enough***, at a wedding. – **ap•pro•pri•ate•ness** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ He questioned the *appropriateness* of the movie for young children.

[2]ap•pro•pri•ate /əˈproʊpriˌeɪt/ *verb* **-ates; -at•ed; -at•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to get or save (money) for a specific use or purpose ▪ The town has *appropriated* funds to repair the bridge and work should begin this summer.

2 : to take or use (something) especially in a way that is illegal, unfair, etc. ▪ The economy has been weakened by corrupt officials who have *appropriated* the country's resources for their own use. ▪ Elements of the design were *appropriated* from other architects. ▪ The term "bad" has been *appropriated* by teenagers as a synonym for "good." — compare MISAPPROPRIATE

ap•pro•pri•a•tion /əˌproʊpriˈeɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** *formal*

1 [*noncount*] : the act of appropriating something: such as **a** : the act of getting or saving money for a specific use or purpose ▪ the *appropriation* of funds to repair the bridge **b** : the act of taking or using something especially in a way that is illegal, unfair, etc. ▪ The economy has been weakened by the *appropriation* of the country's resources by corrupt officials.

2 [*count*] : an amount of money that is used or provided by a government for a specific purpose ▪ The library's *appropriation* (from the state) has decreased over the years.

ap•prov•al /əˈpruːvəl/ *noun, pl* **-als**

1 [*noncount*] : the belief that something or someone is good or acceptable : a good opinion of someone or something ▪ children who never gained/won their parents' *approval* ▪ He nodded in full *approval* of their decision. [=he nodded to show that he agreed with their decision] ▪ I hope that these arrangements ***meet with your approval***. [=I hope that these arrangements are acceptable to you; I hope that you approve of these arrangements] ▪ The governor's ***approval rating*** with the voters is going up. [=a larger number of voters say that the governor is doing a good job] — opposite DISAPPROVAL

2 : permission to do something : acceptance of an idea, action, plan, etc. [*noncount*] Do I have your *approval* to make the changes? ▪ The change is subject to the committee's *approval*. [=the change must be approved by the committee] ▪ The rally will be on May 19, provided the city gives its *approval*. ▪ The company is seeking *approval* of the drug [=is seeking official permission to sell the drug] as a treatment for cancer. ▪ The government has so far withheld *approval* of the drug. [*count*] We were required to get *approvals* at each stage of the project. — see also *seal of approval* at [2]SEAL

on approval ✧ If you buy something *on approval*, you can return it after using it for a period of time if you decide

A

that you do not want it. ▪ We bought the new furniture *on approval*.

ap•prove /ə'pru:v/ *verb* **-proves; -proved; -prov•ing**

1 [*no obj*] : to believe that something or someone is good or acceptable ▪ I don't care if all the other parents are letting their kids do it; I still don't *approve*. — often + *of* ▪ I still don't *approve of* it. ▪ I don't *approve of* the way he treats his wife. = I don't *approve of* him treating his wife the way he does. — opposite DISAPPROVE

2 [+ *obj*] : to officially accept (an idea, action, plan, etc.) ▪ The state has *approved* the building plans, so work on the new school can begin immediately. ▪ Your supervisor must *approve* the report before it can be sent. — often used as *(be) approved* ▪ The drug is expected to *be approved* as a treatment for cancer by the end of the year. ▪ Your application *has been approved*.

approved school *noun, pl* ~ **schools** [*count*] *Brit* : a special school in past times for children who committed crimes

approving *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : showing that you believe that something or someone is good or acceptable : showing approval ▪ an *approving* nod/smile

– **ap•prov•ing•ly** /ə'pru:vɪŋli/ *adv* ▪ She spoke *approvingly* of their efforts. ▪ He nodded *approvingly*.

approx. *abbr* approximate; approximately

[1]ap•prox•i•mate /ə'prɑ:ksəmət/ *adj* : almost correct or exact ▪ This is the *approximate* location of the ancient city. ▪ her *approximate* age : close in value or amount but not precise ▪ Can you give me the *approximate* cost of the repair?

– **ap•prox•i•mate•ly** *adv* ▪ The repair should cost *approximately* [=*about, around, roughly*] $200.

[2]ap•prox•i•mate /ə'prɑ:ksə,meɪt/ *verb* **-mates; -mat•ed; -mat•ing**

1 a : to be very similar to but not exactly like (something) [+ *obj*] I've finally found a vegetarian burger that *approximates* the taste of real beef. ▪ The colors in the pictures can only *approximate* the real thing. [*no obj*] (*chiefly Brit*) — + *to* ▪ The colors in the pictures can only *approximate to* the real thing. **b** [+ *obj*] : to do or make a thing that is very similar to but not exactly like (something) ▪ an Australian who can *approximate* a strong New York City accent

2 [+ *obj*] : to calculate the almost exact value or position of (something) ▪ Students learned to *approximate* [=*estimate*] the distance between the Earth and the planets.

ap•prox•i•ma•tion /ə,prɑ:ksə'meɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** [*count*]

1 : an amount, figure, etc., that is almost correct and is not intended to be exact : an approximate amount, figure, etc. ▪ These numbers are only *approximations* [=*estimates*] but they give us some idea of what we can afford. ▪ This isn't an exact figure but I think it's a good/rough *approximation* of what the land is worth.

2 : something that is similar to something else ▪ The color of the paint isn't the exact same color as the vase, but it's a close *approximation*. — usually + *of* or *to* ▪ The astronauts train in a room that provides an *approximation of* conditions in space. ▪ There's little more than a vague *approximation to* the truth in their story.

appt. *abbr* appoint; appointed; appointment

ap•pur•te•nance /ə'pɚtənəns/ *noun, pl* **-nanc•es** [*count*] *formal* : an object that is used with or for something — usually plural ▪ an office equipped with all the *appurtenances* [=*accessories*] of the modern business world

Apr. *abbr* April

APR /,eɪ,pi:'ɑɚ/ *noun* [*singular*] *business* : the rate at which interest on a loan is calculated over the period of a year ✧ *APR* is an abbreviation of "annual percentage rate."

après–ski /,ɑ:,preɪ'ski:/ *noun* [*noncount*] : social activities after a day of skiing — often used before another noun ▪ an *après-ski* party

apri•cot /'æprə,kɑ:t, 'eɪprə,kɑ:t/ *noun, pl* **-cots** [*count*] : a small orange-colored fruit that is related to the peach and plum — see color picture on page C5

April /'eɪprəl/ *noun, pl* **Aprils** : the fourth month of the year [*noncount*] in (early/middle/mid-/late) *April* ▪ early/late in *April* ▪ We arrived on *April* the fourth. = (*US*) We arrived on *April* fourth. = We arrived on the fourth of *April*. [*count*] We have had snowstorms the last few *Aprils*. ▪ The children have a week off from school every *April*. — abbr. *Apr*.

April Fools' Day *or* **April Fool's Day** *noun* [*singular*] : April 1 celebrated as a day on which people play tricks on each other — called also *All Fools' Day* ✧ A trick that is played on April Fools' Day is often called an ***April Fools' trick*** or ***April Fools' joke***. A person who is tricked on April Fools' Day is sometimes called an ***April fool***.

a pri•o•ri /,ɑ:pri'ori/ *adj, formal* : relating to what can be known through an understanding of how certain things work rather than by observation ▪ There's no *a priori* reason to think your expenses will remain the same in a new city. — compare A POSTERIORI

– **a priori** *adv*

apron /'eɪprən/ *noun, pl* **aprons** [*count*]

1 : a piece of clothing that is worn on the front of the body over clothes to keep them from getting dirty ▪ a cook's *apron*

2 : the part of a stage that is in front of the curtain — called also *apron stage*

3 : the paved part of an airport where airplanes load or unload or are turned around



apron

apron string *noun, pl* ~ **strings** [*count*] : either one of a pair of strings that are attached to an apron and are used to keep it close to your body — usually used figuratively ▪ At 38 years old, he's still ***tied to his mother's apron strings***. [=he is still controlled by his mother] ▪ The company has relied on government support, but the government is now threatening to ***cut the apron strings***. [=to stop providing support]

[1]ap•ro•pos /,æprə'poʊ/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : suitable or appropriate ▪ The ceremony concluded with the reading of an *apropos* poem. ▪ The comment, though unexpected, was *apropos*.

[2]apropos *prep* : with regard to (something) : APROPOS OF ▪ *Apropos* [=*concerning*] the proposed changes, I think more information is needed.

apropos of *prep* : with regard to (something) ▪ *Apropos of* [=*concerning*] the proposed changes, I think more information is needed. ▪ Her comment about the weather was ***apropos of nothing***. [=did not relate to any previous topic]

apse /'æps/ *noun, pl* **aps•es** [*count*] : a part of a church that is shaped like a half circle and that is usually at the east end of the building

apt /'æpt/ *adj* **apt•er; apt•est** [*or more* ~; *most* ~]

1 : likely to do something : having a tendency to do something — followed by *to* + *verb* ▪ Don't wake him; he's *apt to become* angry. ▪ Adolescents are more *apt to take* risks than adults are.

2 : appropriate or suitable ▪ an *apt* remark ▪ "Stripe" is an *apt* name for the cat, since she has striped fur.

3 : quick to learn ▪ a very *apt* student/pupil

– **apt•ly** *adv* ▪ The cat is *aptly* named "Stripe." – **apt•ness** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the *aptness* of the remarks

apt. *abbr* **1** apartment **2** aptitude

ap•ti•tude /'æptə,tu:d, *Brit* 'æptə,tju:d/ *noun, pl* **-tudes** : a natural ability to do something or to learn something [*count*] The new test is supposed to measure the *aptitudes* of the students. ▪ Anyone who can speak five languages obviously has a great natural *aptitude* for (learning) languages. [*noncount*] She's shown great natural *aptitude for* (learning) languages. ▪ a test of *aptitude* = an ***aptitude test*** [=a test that is designed to show how easily someone will be able to learn certain skills]

aqua /'ɑ:kwə/ *noun, pl* **aquas** [*count, noncount*] : a light greenish-blue color — see color picture on page C2

– **aqua** *adj*

aqua•ma•rine /,ɑ:kwəmə'ri:n/ *noun, pl* **-rines**

1 [*count*] : a pale greenish-blue stone that is used in jewelry — see color picture on page C11

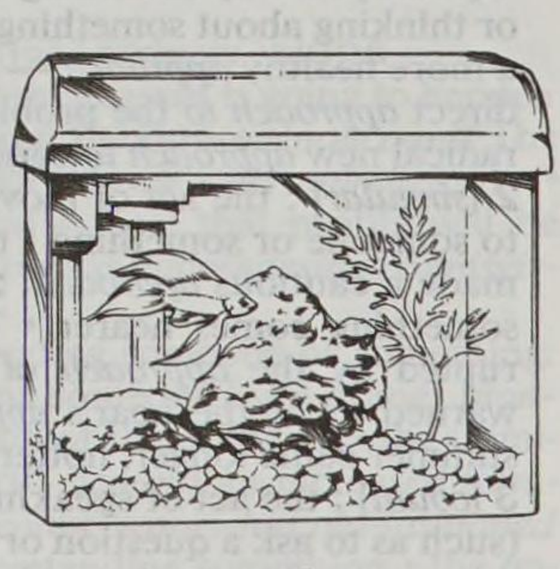
2 [*count, noncount*] : a pale greenish-blue color that is more blue than aqua

– **aquamarine** *adj*

aquar•i•um /ə'kwerijəm/ *noun, pl* **-i•ums** *or* **-ia** /-ijə/ [*count*]

1 : a glass or plastic container in which fish and other water animals and plants can live

2 : a building people can visit to see water animals and plants



aquarium

Aquar•i•us /ə'kwerijəs/ *noun, pl* **-us•es**

1 [*noncount*] : the 11th sign

of the zodiac that comes between Capricorn and Pisces and is symbolized by a person carrying a jug of water — see picture at ZODIAC

2 [*count*] : a person born under the sign Aquarius : a person born between January 20th and February 18th ▪ She was born on February third, so she's an *Aquarius*.

aquat•ic /əˈkwɑːtɪk/ *adj*

1 : living or found in or near water ▪ *aquatic* animals/plants ▪ *aquatic* environments

2 : of or relating to the animals and plants that live in or near water ▪ *aquatic* biology ▪ an *aquatic* biologist

3 : done in or on water ▪ *aquatic* sports

aq•ue•duct /ˈækwəˌdʌkt/ *noun, pl* **-ducts** [*count*] : a structure that looks like a bridge and that is used to carry water over a valley; *also* : a pipe or channel that is used to bring water to an area

aque•ous /ˈeɪkwijəs/ *adj, technical* : containing water or similar to water ▪ an *aqueous* solution/fluid

aqui•fer /ˈækwəfɚ/ *noun, pl* **-fers** [*count*] *technical* : a layer of rock or sand that can absorb and hold water ▪ an underground *aquifer*

aq•ui•line /ˈækwəˌlaɪn/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*]

1 : curving like an eagle's beak ▪ an *aquiline* nose

2 : like an eagle ▪ an actor with *aquiline* features [=an actor whose face has an angular shape like an eagle's face]

aquiv•er /əˈkwɪvɚ/ *adj, not used before a noun* : shaking or trembling because of strong emotion : quivering ▪ He was all *aquiver* with excitement/rage.

AR *abbr* Arkansas

-ar /ɚ/ *adj suffix* : of or relating to ▪ molecul*ar* ▪ circul*ar*

Ar•ab /ˈerəb/ *noun, pl* **-abs** [*count*]

1 : a member of the people who are originally from the Arabian Peninsula and who now live mostly in the Middle East and northern Africa

2 *Brit* : ARABIAN HORSE

– Arab *adj* ▪ the *Arab* states ▪ *Arab* history ▪ an *Arab* scholar of the Arabic language

ar•a•besque /ˌerəˈbɛsk/ *noun, pl* **-besques**

1 [*count*] : a complicated decorative design made with many lines that curve and cross each other

2 : a ballet position in which the dancer stands on one foot and holds one arm forward while the other arm and leg are held out behind [*count*] The students practiced their *arabesques*. [*noncount*] She held her arms in *arabesque*.

– arabesque *adj* ▪ an *arabesque* pattern

Ara•bi•an /əˈreɪbijən/ *adj* : from or in Arabia ▪ *Arabian* cities/scenery ▪ the *Arabian* Desert : connected with the Arab people ▪ *Arabian* history/culture/music

Arabian horse *noun, pl* **~ horses** [*count*] : a type of horse originally from Arabia

Ar•a•bic /ˈerəbɪk/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the language of the Arab people ▪ fluent in *Arabic*

– Arabic *adj* ▪ an Arab scholar of the *Arabic* language ▪ *Arabic* literature/writing ▪ the *Arabic* alphabet

Arabic numeral *noun, pl* **~ -rals** [*count*] : any one of the number symbols 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 0 — compare ROMAN NUMERAL

ar•a•ble /ˈerəbəl/ *adj*

1 [*more ~; most ~*] : suitable for farming : able to produce crops ▪ The family is selling several acres of *arable* land.

2 *Brit* : of or relating to growing crops ▪ *arable* farming ▪ *arable* farmers

arach•nid /əˈræknəd/ *noun, pl* **-nids** [*count*] *technical* : a kind of animal that has eight legs and a body formed of two parts ▪ Spiders, scorpions, mites, and ticks are *arachnids*. — see color picture on page C10

ar•bi•ter /ˈɑɚbətɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ters** [*count*]

1 : a person who is considered to be an authority on what is right, good, or proper — often + *of* ▪ an *arbiter of* fashion/manners/grammar ▪ He is regarded as an ***arbiter of taste*** in the world of jazz.

2 : a person who has the power to settle an argument between people ▪ The mayor will act as the ***final arbiter*** in any disputes between board members.

ar•bi•trage /ˈɑɚbəˌtrɑːʒ/ *noun* [*noncount*] *business* : the practice of buying something (such as foreign money, gold, etc.) in one place and selling it almost immediately in another place where it is worth more

– ar•bi•tra•geur /ˌɑɚbəˌtrɑːˈʒɚ/ *also US* **ar•bi•trag•er** /ˈɑɚbəˌtrɑːʒɚ/ *noun, pl* **-geurs** *also US* **-gers** [*count*]

ar•bi•trary /ˈɑɚbəˌtreri, *Brit* ˈɑːbətrəri/ *adj*

1 [*more ~; most ~*] : not planned or chosen for a particular reason ▪ An *arbitrary* number has been assigned to each district. : not based on reason or evidence ▪ I don't know why I chose that one; it was a completely *arbitrary* decision.

2 : done without concern for what is fair or right ▪ Although *arbitrary* arrests are illegal, they continue to occur in many parts of the country.

– ar•bi•trari•ly /ˌɑɚbəˈtrerəli, *Brit* ˈɑːbətrərəli/ *adv* ▪ The number was *arbitrarily* chosen. **– ar•bi•trari•ness** /ˈɑɚbəˌtrerinəs, *Brit* ˈɑːbətrərinəs/ *noun* [*noncount*]

ar•bi•trate /ˈɑɚbəˌtreɪt/ *verb* **-trates**; **-trat•ed**; **-trat•ing** : to settle an argument between two people or groups after hearing the opinions and ideas of both [*no obj*] The council will *arbitrate* among the interest groups. ▪ *arbitrate* between managers and staff [+ *obj*] She will *arbitrate* the dispute.

ar•bi•tra•tion /ˌɑɚbəˈtreɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a process of settling an argument or disagreement in which the people or groups on both sides present their opinions and ideas to a third person or group ▪ Both parties have agreed to (go to) *arbitration*. ▪ a dispute settled by *arbitration*

ar•bi•tra•tor /ˈɑɚbəˌtreɪtɚ/ *noun, pl* **-tors** [*count*] : a person who is chosen to settle a disagreement between people or groups ▪ Both sides agreed to accept a decision by an impartial *arbitrator*.

ar•bor (*US*) *or Brit* **ar•bour** /ˈɑɚbɚ/ *noun, pl* **-bors** [*count*] : a wooden shelter in a garden that is shaped like an arch and that plants grow over



arbor

ar•bo•re•al /ɑɚˈborijəl/ *adj*

1 *formal + literary* : of or relating to trees ▪ the forest's *arboreal* beauty

2 *technical* : living in or often found in trees ▪ an *arboreal* monkey

ar•bo•re•tum /ˌɑɚbəˈriːtəm/ *noun, pl* **-re•tums** *or* **-re•ta** /-ˈriːtə/ [*count*] : a place where trees and plants are grown in order to be studied or seen by the public

[1]arc /ˈɑɚk/ *noun, pl* **arcs** [*count*]

1 : a line or shape that is curved like part of a circle ▪ He bent the twig into an *arc*. ▪ The ball floated in a high *arc*. — see picture at GEOMETRY

2 *technical* : a brightly glowing electric current that flows across an open space between two points (such as two electrodes) ▪ an electric *arc*

[2]arc *verb* **arcs**; **arced** /ˈɑɚkt/; **arc•ing** /ˈɑɚkɪŋ/ [*no obj*]

1 : to move or lie in a curving path : to follow an arc-shaped course ▪ The arrow *arced* through the air. ▪ A light *arced* across the sky. ▪ The island chain *arcs* from north to south.

2 *technical* : to form an electric arc

ar•cade /ɑɚˈkeɪd/ *noun, pl* **-cades** [*count*]

1 : a row of arches that are supported by columns

2 : an arched or covered passageway with many shops; *also, chiefly Brit* : a building that includes many shops ▪ a ***shopping arcade***

3 : a place with many games that can be played by putting coins in them — often used before another noun ▪ an ***arcade game*** — called also (*Brit*) *amusement arcade*, (*US*) *penny arcade*

ar•ca•dia *or* **Ar•ca•dia** /ɑɚˈkeɪdijə/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a very pleasant and quiet place or scene

ar•cane /ɑɚˈkeɪn/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : secret or mysterious : known or understood by only a few people ▪ an *arcane* scientific puzzle ▪ an *arcane* ritual ▪ a theory filled with *arcane* details

[1]arch /ˈɑɚʧ/ *noun, pl* **arch•es** [*count*]

1 : a usually curved part of a structure that is over an opening and that supports a wall or other weight above the opening

2 : the raised area on the bottom of the foot that is formed by a curved section of bones — see picture at FOOT

3 : something that has a curved shape ▪ There was a slight *arch* to her eyebrows. ▪ an *arch* in the cat's back

[2]arch *verb* **arches**; **arched**; **arch•ing** : to bend into the shape of an arch : CURVE [+ *obj*] She *arched* her arm/back/neck. ▪ The cat *arched* its back. ▪ She *arched* her eyebrows in surprise. [*no obj*] A tree *arches* over the road. ▪ She *arched* backward to begin the exercise.

– arched *adj* ▪ the cat's *arched* back ▪ her *arched* eyebrows ▪ *arched* ceilings/doorway/gateway/roof/windows

[3]arch *adj* : having or showing an amused feeling of being superior to or knowing more than other people ▪ an *arch* look ▪

A

a politician known for his *arch* humor ▪ The novel is never mocking or *arch* in its tone.
– **arch•ly** *adv* ▪ an *archly* playful reply ▪ an essay with an *archly* comic title – **arch•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

arch- /ˌɑəʧ/ *prefix*
1 : main or chief ▪ *arch*enemy ▪ *arch*bishop ▪ *arch*rival
2 : extreme ▪ *arch*conservative

ar•chae•ol•o•gy *or chiefly US* **ar•che•ol•o•gy** /ˌɑəkiˈɑːlədʒi/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a science that deals with past human life and activities by studying the bones, tools, etc., of ancient people
– **ar•chae•o•log•i•cal** *or chiefly US* **ar•che•o•log•i•cal** /ˌɑəkijəˈlɑːdʒɪkəl/ *adj* ▪ an *archaeological* site/dig – **ar•chae•o•log•i•cal•ly** *or chiefly US* **ar•che•o•log•i•cal•ly** /ˌɑəkijəˈlɑːdʒɪkli/ *adv* – **ar•chae•ol•o•gist** *or chiefly US* **ar•che•ol•o•gist** /ˌɑəkiˈɑːlədʒɪst/ *noun, pl* **-gists** [*count*]

ar•cha•ic /ɑəˈkejɪk/ *adj*
1 : old and no longer used ▪ the *archaic* word "methinks" ▪ *archaic* spellings of words ▪ *archaic* customs ***synonyms*** see [1]OLD
2 [*more ~; most ~*] : old and no longer useful : OUTDATED ▪ The company needs to update its *archaic* computer systems.
3 : of or relating to ancient times ▪ *archaic* art

ar•cha•ism /ˈɑəkiˌɪzəm/ *noun, pl* **-isms** [*count*] : an old word or expression that is no longer used : an archaic word or expression ▪ the *archaisms* "methinks" and "saith"

arch•an•gel /ˈɑəʧˌeɪnʤəl/ *noun, pl* **-gels** [*count*] : an angel of the highest rank

arch•bish•op /ɑəʧˈbɪʃəp/ *noun, pl* **-ops** [*count*] : the bishop of highest rank in a particular area

arch•bish•op•ric /ɑəʧˈbɪʃəprɪk/ *noun, pl* **-rics** [*count*] : the rank of an archbishop or the area over which an archbishop has authority

arch•con•ser•va•tive /ɑəʧkənˈsəvətɪv/ *noun, pl* **-tives** [*count*] : a person who is extremely conservative in politics
– **archconservative** *adj*

arch•dea•con /ɑəʧˈdiːkən/ *noun, pl* **-cons** [*count*] : a church official who assists a bishop

arch•di•o•cese /ɑəʧˈdajəsəs/ *noun, pl* **-ces•es** [*count*] : the area an archbishop is in charge of : the diocese of an archbishop

arch•duch•ess /ɑəʧˈdʌʧəs/ *noun, pl* **-ess•es** [*count*]
1 : a princess of the royal family of Austria
2 : the wife or widow of an archduke

arch•duke /ɑəʧˈduːk, *Brit* ɑʧˈdjuːk/ *noun, pl* **-dukes** [*count*] : a prince of the royal family of Austria

arch•en•e•my /ɑəʧˈɛnəmi/ *noun, pl* **-mies** [*count*] : someone's main enemy ▪ The two politicians were *archenemies*. ▪ The country went to war with its *archenemy*.

archeology *chiefly US spelling of* ARCHAEOLOGY

ar•cher /ˈɑəʧə/ *noun, pl* **-chers** [*count*] : a person who shoots with a bow and arrow

ar•chery /ˈɑəʧəri/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the sport or skill of shooting with a bow and arrow — often used before another noun ▪ an *archery* competition/contest ▪ *archery* equipment

ar•che•type /ˈɑəkɪˌtaɪp/ *noun, pl* **-types** [*count*] : a perfect example of something ▪ He is the *archetype* of a successful businessman. ▪ an *archetype* of the modern family
– **ar•che•typ•al** /ˌɑəkɪˈtaɪpəl/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] ▪ an *archetypal* businessman ▪ an *archetypal* American town

ar•chi•pel•a•go /ˌɑəkəˈpɛləˌgoʊ/ *noun, pl* **-goes** *or* **-gos** [*count*] : a group of islands

ar•chi•tect /ˈɑəkəˌtɛkt/ *noun, pl* **-tects** [*count*]
1 : a person who designs buildings ▪ a famous *architect*
2 : a person who designs and guides a plan, project, etc. — usually + *of* ▪ He is the main/chief/principal *architect of* the country's foreign policy. ▪ an *architect of* the peace proposal ▪ She earned praise as the *architect of* a new school program.

ar•chi•tec•ture /ˈɑəkəˌtɛkʧə/ *noun, pl* **-tures**
1 [*noncount*] : the art or science of designing and creating buildings ▪ In college, he studied *architecture*.
2 [*noncount*] : a method or style of building ▪ The *architecture* of the building is modern.
3 [*count*] *technical* : the way in which the parts of a computer are organized ▪ different program *architectures*
– **ar•chi•tec•tur•al** /ˌɑəkəˈtɛkʧərəl/ *adj* ▪ *architectural* blueprints/designs/drawings/plans ▪ an *architectural* detail/element/feature/style – **ar•chi•tec•tur•al•ly** *adv* ▪ *architecturally* wonderful buildings

[1]ar•chive /ˈɑəˌkaɪv/ *noun, pl* **-chives** [*count*] : a place in which public records or historical materials (such as documents) are kept ▪ an *archive* of historical manuscripts ▪ The original movie was stored in a film *archive*.; *also* : the material that is stored in an archive ▪ He has been reading through the *archives* to research his article on the town's history.
– **ar•chi•val** /ɑəˈkaɪvəl/ *adj* ▪ *archival* resources/material

[2]archive *verb* **-chives**; **-chived**; **-chiv•ing** [+ *obj*] : to collect and store materials (such as recordings, documents, or computer files) so that they can be found and used when they are needed ▪ The organization was devoted to cataloging and *archiving* printed materials on the labor movement. ▪ She *archived* her e-mail messages in a folder on her hard drive. ▪ a collection of *archived* articles

ar•chi•vist /ˈɑəkəvɪst/ *noun, pl* **-vists** [*count*] : a person who has the job of collecting and storing the materials in an archive

arch•ri•val /ɑəʧˈraɪvəl/ *noun, pl* **-vals** [*count*] : someone's chief rival or opponent ▪ In baseball, the Boston Red Sox and the New York Yankees are *archrivals*.

arch•way /ˈɑəʧˌweɪ/ *noun, pl* **-ways** [*count*] : a passage that goes under an arch; *also* : an arch over a passage

arc•tic /ˈɑəktɪk/ *adj*
1 *or* ***Arctic*** *always used before a noun* : of or relating to the North Pole or the region around it ▪ off the *arctic* coast ▪ The group is involved in *Arctic* exploration. ▪ *Arctic* waters — compare ANTARCTIC
2 : very cold ▪ *arctic* temperatures

Arctic Circle *noun*
the Arctic Circle : an imaginary line that goes around the Earth near the North Pole

ar•dent /ˈɑədn̩t/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : having or showing very strong feelings ▪ She is an *ardent* [=*fervent*] believer in her religion. [=she believes very strongly in her religion] ▪ an *ardent* [=*passionate*] admirer ▪ *ardent* fans ▪ *ardent* [=*amorous*] lovers
– **ar•dent•ly** *adv*

ar•dor (*US*) *or chiefly Brit* **ar•dour** /ˈɑədə/ *noun, pl* **-dors**
1 : a strong feeling of energy or eagerness [*noncount*] He preached with the *ardor* [=*fervor*] of a true believer. [*count*] the sudden *ardors* of youth
2 [*noncount*] : a strong feeling of love ▪ young love, with all its *ardor* [=*passion*] and intensity

ar•du•ous /ˈɑəʤəwəs/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : very difficult ▪ He went through a long and *arduous* training program. ▪ *arduous* efforts ▪ years of *arduous* study ▪ an *arduous* chore/duty/job/task ▪ an *arduous* journey across miles of desert
– **ar•du•ous•ly** *adv* ▪ working *arduously* – **ar•du•ous•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

are see BE

ar•ea /ˈerijə/ *noun, pl* **ar•eas**
1 [*count*] **a** : a part or section within a larger place : REGION ▪ Settlers came to this *area* from the east. ▪ The group visited the *area* during a hunting trip. ▪ in the *area* surrounding the lake ▪ The storm caused damage in many *areas* along the coast. ▪ a bird found only in remote *areas* of the U.S. ▪ in many *areas* of the world ▪ He is the metropolitan *area's* most popular politician. ▪ urban and rural *areas* ▪ He lived in an unfashionable *area* of the city. ▪ a residential *area* ▪ One of our representatives will be in your *area* [=*neighborhood*] next week. **b** : a section of space within a building, room, etc. ▪ She set aside a work *area* in the kitchen. ▪ The dining *area* has extra windows. ▪ We were asked to wait in the reception *area*. ▪ The park had several picnic *areas*.
2 [*count*] : a part of the surface of something (such as a person's body or a piece of cloth) ▪ Choose a small *area* of the fabric to test first. ▪ The patient was having pain in the shoulder/abdominal *area*. = The patient was having pain in the *area* of the shoulder/abdomen.
3 [*count*] : a field of activity or study ▪ The discovery has opened up new *areas* of/for research. ▪ The budget continues to be a major *area* of concern. ▪ a problem *area* ▪ the whole *area* of foreign policy ▪ She wants the government to provide more help in the *area* of health care. ▪ Your question falls outside my *area* of expertise. ▪ There are still some *areas* of disagreement between the two sides. — see also GRAY AREA
4 : the amount of space inside a shape, surface, region, room, etc. [*count*] The students learned how to calculate the *area* of a triangle. ▪ a circle with an *area* of 500 square meters ▪ The park has an *area* of 2 square miles. [*noncount*] a circle that is 500 square meters in *area* ▪ (*chiefly US*) The nightclub provided enough *area* [=*room, space*] for a dance floor.
in the area of : close to (an amount) ▪ The project will cost (somewhere) *in the area of* $50,000.

area code *noun, pl* ~ **codes** [*count*] : a number that represents each telephone service area in a country (such as the U.S. or Canada) — called also (*Brit*) *dialling code*

are•na /ə'ri:nə/ *noun, pl* **-nas** [*count*]
1 : a building for sports and other forms of entertainment that has a large central area surrounded by seats ▪ a basketball/hockey *arena*
2 : an area of activity, interest, or competition ▪ Congress became an *arena* of opposing views. ▪ the toughest political *arena* in the world ▪ The economic *arena* has been dominated by that country.

arena football *noun* [*noncount*] *US* : a game that is like American football but that is played indoors on a shorter field

aren't /'ɑənt, 'ɑrənt/
1 — used as a contraction of *are not* ▪ We *aren't* ready to leave.
2 — used in questions as a contraction of *am not* ▪ *Aren't* I included too? = I'm included too, *aren't* I? [=am I not also included?]

ar•gon /'ɑəˌgɑ:n/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a chemical element that is a colorless gas and that is used in various products (such as lasers and some electric light bulbs)

ar•got /'ɑəgət, 'ɑəgoʊ/ *noun, pl* **-gots** : the language used by a particular type or group of people [*noncount*] people communicating in criminal *argot* [=the language used by criminals] [*count*] groups communicating in their own secret *argots*

ar•gu•able /'ɑəgjuwəbəl/ *adj*
1 : not certain or clearly true : open to argument, dispute, or question ▪ That word's pronunciation is *arguable*. ▪ the *arguable* [=*questionable*] benefits of trying to follow every fad diet ▪ That is an *arguable* point of view.
2 : possibly true — used to say that there are good reasons for believing that a statement is true ▪ It is *arguable* that he's the best writer of his generation.

ar•gu•ably /'ɑəgjuwəbli/ *adv* : it can be argued — used to say that a statement is very possibly true even if it is not certainly true ▪ He is *arguably* the best writer of his generation. [=he may well be the best writer of his generation] ▪ It is *arguably* the busiest airport in the world.

ar•gue /'ɑəgju/ *verb* **-gues**; **-gued**; **-gu•ing**
1 a : to give reasons for or against something : to say or write things in order to change someone's opinion about what is true, what should be done, etc. [*no obj*] She *argued* against the proposed law. ▪ The senator *argued* in favor of lowering taxes. ▪ They *argued* (convincingly/persuasively) against cutting the budget. ▪ He's always willing to *argue* for what is right. ▪ *argue* for better funding [+ *obj*] She *argued* that the proposed law should be defeated. ▪ He *argued* that it's far too early to make a decision. **b** [+ *obj*] : to cause (someone) to decide to do or not do something by giving reasons ▪ They tried to *argue* their parents into getting a new car. [=to persuade their parents to get a new car] ▪ No one can *argue* me out of doing this.
2 [*no obj*] : to disagree or fight by using angry words : QUARREL ▪ Their neighbors *argued* (with each other) all the time. ▪ They started *arguing* about/over politics/religion. ▪ She would *argue* with anyone.
3 [*no obj*] : to express doubt or disagreement about something — + *with* ▪ You ***can't argue with*** her success. [=you can't deny that she is successful]
4 a [*no obj*] : to show that something is or is not necessary, appropriate, etc. — usually + *for* or *against* ▪ The result *argues for* a new approach. [=the result shows that we need a new approach] **b** [+ *obj*] *formal* : to give evidence of (something) ▪ The facts *argue* [=*indicate, show*] his innocence.
argue the toss see ²TOSS
– ar•gu•er *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]

ar•gu•ment /'ɑəgjəmənt/ *noun, pl* **-ments**
1 a [*count*] : a statement or series of statements for or against something ▪ They made a compelling/convincing/persuasive/strong *argument* for our participation. ▪ The committee presented strong *arguments* against building a new school. ▪ a lawyer's closing *argument* at the trial ▪ His *argument* did not convince his opponents. **b** [*noncount*] : a discussion in which people express different opinions about something ▪ Let us accept, for the sake of *argument*, that she is right. ▪ Don't you want to hear both sides of the *argument*?
2 : an angry disagreement : QUARREL [*count*] They were always getting into *arguments* about/over politics. ▪ There were many *arguments* about/over the new design. ▪ They settled an *argument* that started in class. ▪ I don't want to hear any *arguments* about whether you'll go. [*noncount*] I don't want to hear any *argument* about whether you'll go. ▪ You'll get no *argument* from me. [=I won't disagree] ▪ On that issue, there's no *argument*. [=*disagreement*]
3 [*singular*] : something which shows that something is or is not necessary, appropriate, etc. — usually + *for* or *against* ▪ The result is an *argument for* a new approach. [=the result shows that we need to try a new approach]

ar•gu•men•ta•tion /ˌɑəgjəmən'teɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] *formal* : the act or process of giving reasons for or against something : the act or process of making and presenting arguments ▪ He tried to use *argumentation* to convince his opponents, rather than force.

ar•gu•men•ta•tive /ˌɑəgjə'mɛntətɪv/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : tending to argue : having or showing a tendency to disagree or argue with other people in an angry way : QUARRELSOME ▪ an *argumentative* person ▪ He became more *argumentative* during the debate. ▪ an *argumentative* essay
– ar•gu•men•ta•tive•ly *adv* **– ar•gu•men•ta•tive•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

ar•gy–bar•gy /ˌɑəʤi'bɑəʤi/ *noun, Brit, informal* : an argument or disagreement : SQUABBLE [*singular*] The tenants got into a bit of an *argy-bargy* with each other. [*noncount*] There's been a certain amount of *argy-bargy* between the tenants.

aria /'ɑrijə/ *noun, pl* **ari•as** [*count*] : a song in an opera sung by one person

ar•id /'erəd/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]
1 : very dry : having very little rain or water ▪ an *arid* desert ▪ *arid* lands/regions
2 : lacking in interest and life ▪ a dull and *arid* textbook
– arid•i•ty /ə'rɪdəti/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the *aridity* of the land

Ar•i•es /'eriz/ *noun, pl* **Aries**
1 [*noncount*] : the first sign of the zodiac : the sign of the zodiac that comes between Pisces and Taurus and has a ram as its symbol — see picture at ZODIAC
2 [*count*] : a person born under the sign of Aries : a person born between March 21 and April 19 ▪ My friend is an *Aries* and I'm a Taurus.

aright /ə'raɪt/ *adv, old-fashioned + literary* : so as to be correct ▪ His name was Jones, if I remember *aright*. [=*rightly, correctly*] ▪ He tried to set/put things *aright*. [=*right, to rights*]

arise /ə'raɪz/ *verb* **aris•es**; **arose** /ə'roʊz/; **aris•en** /ə'rɪzn̩/; **aris•ing** [*no obj*]
1 a : to begin to occur or to exist ▪ These problems *arise* when people try to avoid responsibility. ▪ Questions have *arisen* concerning/about the company's financial records. ▪ The sport *arose* in the 19th century. ▪ The opportunity *arose* for a new position to be created. ▪ A conflict *arose* because of a misunderstanding. ▪ Jobs will be created ***as/when the need arises*** [=jobs will be created when they are needed] ▪ ***Should the need arise***, he can defend himself. [=he can defend himself if it is necessary to do so] **b** : to begin at a source ▪ Tumors *arose* in different areas of the skin. — usually + *from* ▪ arteries that *arise from* the aorta ▪ small roots *arising from* the stems ▪ The disease probably *arose from* a virus. ▪ The river *arises from* two main sources.
2 a : to get up from sleep or after lying down ▪ He *arose* [=(more commonly) *rose*] refreshed after a good night's sleep. **b** : to stand up ▪ He *arose* [=(more commonly) *rose*] from his chair.
3 : to move upward ▪ Mist *arose* [=(more commonly) *rose*] from the valley.

ar•is•toc•ra•cy /ˌerə'stɑ:krəsi/ *noun, pl* **-cies** [*count*] : the highest social class in some countries : the people who have special titles (such as *duke* and *duchess*), who typically own land, and who traditionally have more money and power than the other people in a society ▪ a member of the *aristocracy*

aris•to•crat /ə'rɪstəˌkræt/ *noun, pl* **-crats** [*count*] : a member of an aristocracy ▪ an *aristocrat* by birth
– aris•to•crat•ic /əˌrɪstə'krætɪk/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ *aristocratic* titles like *duke* and *duchess* **– aris•to•crat•i•cal•ly** /əˌrɪstə'krætɪkli/ *adv*

arith•me•tic /ə'rɪθməˌtɪk/ *noun* [*noncount*]
1 : a branch of mathematics that deals with numbers and their addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division
2 : the act or process of calculating a number ▪ a software program that will do the *arithmetic* for you
– ar•ith•met•ic /ˌerɪθ'mɛtɪk/ *or* **ar•ith•met•i•cal** /ˌerɪθ'mɛtɪkəl/ *adj* **– ar•ith•met•i•cal•ly** /ˌerɪθ'mɛtɪkli/ *adv*

A

Ark /ˈɑək/ *noun* [*singular*] *in the Bible* : the ship in which Noah and his family were saved from a great flood that God sent down on the world in ancient times ▪ Noah's *Ark*

[1]arm /ˈɑəm/ *noun, pl* **arms** [*count*]

1 : either one of the two long body parts that join the top of your body at the shoulder and that end at the hand or wrist ▪ He has big, strong, muscular *arms*. ▪ She broke her left *arm*. = Her left *arm* was/got broken. ▪ He hurt his throwing/pitching *arm* [=the arm that he uses to throw/pitch a ball] in the last game. ▪ She put/threw her *arms* around him. [=she hugged him] ▪ She had a newspaper tucked under her *arm*. ▪ He was carrying a bag of groceries in each *arm*. ▪ He gave/offered his *arm* to her, and she took it. [=she held onto his arm] ▪ She grabbed my *arm*. = She grabbed me by the *arm*. ▪ He was standing there with his *arms* crossed/folded. ▪ She stood with her *arms* outstretched. = She stood with her *arms* wide open. ▪ She sat cradling the baby in her *arms*. ▪ I've known her since she was ***a babe in arms***. [=a baby who is too young to walk and has to be held] ▪ He ***took her in/into his arms*** [=he embraced her] and kissed her passionately. ▪ She found him ***in the arms of*** [=being embraced by] another woman. ▪ He showed up at the party with a young woman ***on his arm***. [=holding his arm] ▪ He ***took her (by the) arm*** and they walked in to dinner. — see picture at HUMAN

2 : the part of a piece of clothing (such as a shirt or coat) that covers the arm : SLEEVE ▪ The jacket's *arms* are too tight. = The jacket is too tight in the *arms*.

3 : a part of a piece of furniture (such as a chair or couch) that gives support for a person's arm ▪ the *arm* of the sofa — see also [1]ARMCHAIR

4 a : a long thin piece that is connected to the main part of a machine, structure, etc., and that looks or moves like a human arm ▪ the robot's mechanical *arm* ▪ the machine's robotic *arm* ▪ the *arm* of the record player **b** : a long and narrow area of water ▪ an *arm* of the sea

5 : the part of a group or organization that performs a specific job or function — usually singular ▪ the organization's political *arm* [=the part of the organization that deals with politics] ▪ It is the most powerful *arm* [=*division*] of the organization. ▪ the military *arm* of the government

6 *US, sports* : a person's ability to throw a ball — usually singular ▪ Their pitcher's got a great *arm*. ▪ a strong/weak *arm*

an arm and a leg *informal* : a very large amount of money ▪ It's a reliable car, and it doesn't cost *an arm and a leg*. [=it isn't too expensive]

arm in arm : next to each other with the arm of one person linked at the elbow to the arm of another person ▪ an elderly couple walking down the street *arm in arm*

a shot in the arm see [1]SHOT

as long as someone's arm see [1]LONG

at arm's length : from a distance that is the length of a person's arm ▪ It's best to view the painting *at arm's length*. ▪ holding a candle *at arm's length* ✧ To ***keep someone or something at arm's length*** is to avoid being very close to or friendly with someone or something. ▪ Since going to college, he has *kept his old friends at arm's length*. ▪ They no longer trust her and are *keeping her at arm's length*. ▪ The government has *kept the group at arm's length* until now.

chance your arm see [2]CHANCE

give your right arm see [1]GIVE

the long arm of the law : the ability of the police to find and catch people who commit crimes ▪ *The long arm of the law* finally caught up with him [=the police caught him] 30 years later. ▪ So far, she's been able to escape *the long arm of the law*.

twist someone's arm see [1]TWIST

with open arms : in a very kind and friendly way ▪ We were welcomed back ***with open arms***.

– compare [2]ARM

[2]arm *noun, pl* **arms**

1 [*count*] : a gun or other weapon that is used especially in a war — usually plural ▪ The government was selling *arms* to other countries. ▪ the right of individuals to carry/bear *arms* [=*firearms*] — often used before another noun ▪ an *arms* agreement/deal ▪ *arms* shipments ▪ The United Nations lifted the *arms* embargo against the country. — see also ARMS RACE, FIREARM, SMALL ARMS

2 *arms* [*plural*] : COAT OF ARMS ▪ the royal *arms* of Portugal

call to arms ✧ A *call to arms* is a request or command to become ready to fight. ▪ The government issued a *call to arms*. The phrase is also used for something that tries to make people fight for a cause. ▪ Her book is a political *call to arms*.

in arms ✧ If someone is your ***brother/sister/comrade in arms***, that person has helped you fight an enemy especially in a war. ▪ He and I were *brothers in arms*. [=we fought in a war together]

lay down your arms : to put down your weapons and stop fighting ▪ The soldiers refused to *lay down their arms*.

present arms *military* — used as a command to hold your rifle so that it points straight up in front of you as a sign of respect

take up arms : to pick up weapons and become ready to fight ▪ They *took up arms* to defend their city. ▪ The rebels are *taking up arms* against their own government.

under arms : serving in the military ▪ the number of Americans now *under arms* around the world

up in arms : angry and ready to fight or argue ▪ Voters were *up in arms* over the new taxes.

– compare [1]ARM

[3]arm *verb* **arms; armed; arm•ing**

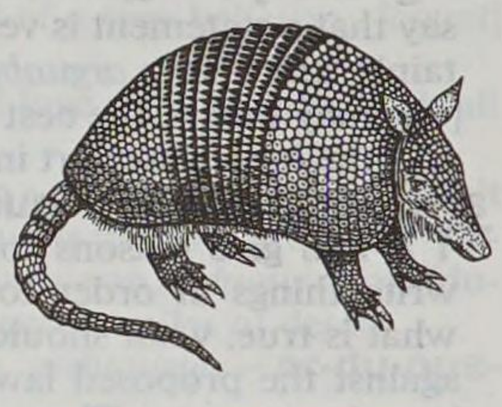
1 : to provide (yourself, a group, a country, etc.) with weapons especially in order to fight a war or battle [+ *obj*] They *armed* the men for battle. ▪ The group of fighters was *armed* by a foreign government. ▪ The two countries have been *arming* themselves for years, but now they have agreed to disarm. — often + *with* ▪ The government has *armed* its military *with* the best weapons. ▪ She *armed* herself *with* a kitchen knife. [*no obj*] *arming* for battle ▪ countries that are continuing to *arm* [=to produce and gather weapons] — opposite DISARM; see also [1]ARMED, UNARMED

2 [+ *obj*] : to provide (someone) *with* a way of fighting, competing, or succeeding ▪ We *armed* ourselves *with* the tools we would need to survive in the forest. ▪ They *arm* people *with* accurate information. ▪ *arming* women *with* the right to vote

3 [+ *obj*] : to make (a bomb, weapon, etc.) ready for use ▪ Once the bomb has been *armed*, we have five minutes to escape. — opposite DISARM

ar•ma•da /ɑəˈmɑːdə/ *noun, pl* **-das** [*count*] : a large group of ships, boats, etc. ▪ an *armada* of fishing boats

ar•ma•dil•lo /ˌɑəməˈdɪloʊ/ *noun, pl* **-los** [*count*] : a small American animal that lives underground and whose head and body are protected by a hard shell



armadillo

Ar•ma•ged•don /ˌɑəməˈgɛdn̩/ *noun* : a final destructive battle or conflict [*singular*] trying to avoid/avert the threat of a nuclear *Armageddon* [=a nuclear war that would destroy the world] [*noncount*] the threat of nuclear *Armageddon*

ar•ma•ment /ˈɑəməmənt/ *noun, pl* **-ments**

1 [*noncount*] : the process of preparing for war by producing and obtaining weapons ▪ The country's *armament* will take years. — opposite DISARMAMENT

2 *armaments* [*plural*] : military weapons that are used to fight a war ▪ a small nation that is determined to have adequate *armaments*

ar•ma•ture /ˈɑəməʧɚ/ *noun, pl* **-tures** [*count*] *technical*

1 : the part of an electric motor or generator that produces an electric current when it turns in a magnetic field

2 : a frame used by a sculptor to support a figure that is being modeled

arm•band /ˈɑəˌbænd/ *noun, pl* **-bands**

1 [*count*] : a band worn around the arm; *especially* : one that is worn around the upper part of a sleeve to show who you are or to show that you are in mourning

2 *armbands* [*plural*] *Brit* : WATER WINGS

[1]arm•chair /ˈɑəmˌʧeɚ/ *noun, pl* **-chairs** [*count*] : a chair with supports for your arms

[2]armchair *adj, always used before a noun*

1 — used to describe people who like to read about or watch the dangerous or exciting activities of other people ▪ an *armchair* adventurer ▪ *armchair* tourists/travelers

2 — used to describe people who like to give opinions about matters they do not have to deal with themselves and do not have responsibility for ▪ *armchair* strategists who second-guess generals

[1]armed /ˈɑəmd/ *adj*

1 : involving the use of weapons ▪ They planned an *armed* attack/assault on the country's capital. ▪ the threat of *armed* conflict ▪ *armed* uprisings ▪ He's serving eight years for

armed robbery. [=robbery while carrying a gun or other weapon] — opposite UNARMED; see also ARMED FORCES

2 : carrying weapons ▪ The building is surrounded by *armed* guards/soldiers. ▪ an *armed* robber ▪ He wasn't *armed* at the time. [=he wasn't carrying a gun] ▪ The police said that the thieves should be considered ***armed and dangerous***. ▪ a group of ***heavily armed*** men [=men who are carrying many dangerous weapons] ▪ The police were ***armed to the teeth***. [=the police had many weapons] — often + *with* ▪ The car was *armed with* explosives. ▪ airplanes *armed with* bombs ▪ The robber was *armed with* a knife. — opposite UNARMED

3 : having something that provides security or strength — usually + *with* ▪ We went into the forest *armed with* food, extra clothes, and lots of bug spray. ▪ journalists *armed with* cameras and notebooks ▪ students *armed with* the knowledge they would need to succeed in the world

– compare [2]ARMED

[2]armed *adj* : having arms of a specific kind or number — used in combination ▪ a one-*armed* man ▪ a long-*armed* boxer — compare [1]ARMED

armed forces *noun* [*plural*] : the military organizations (such as the army, navy, and air force) of a country ▪ He has had a long career in the *armed forces*. ▪ Will the new defense policy weaken the *armed forces*? ▪ The *armed forces* oppose the policy. [=military leaders oppose it] — called also *armed services*

arm•ful /ˈɑɚmˌfʊl/ *noun, pl* **arm•fuls** *also* **arms•ful** /ˈɑɚmzˌfʊl/ [*count*] : an amount that can be carried in a person's arm or arms — usually + *of* ▪ She returned from the library with an *armful of* books. ▪ stacking *armfuls of* wood to bring in for the fireplace

arm•hole /ˈɑɚmˌhoʊl/ *noun, pl* **-holes** [*count*] : an opening for the arm in a piece of clothing

ar•mi•stice /ˈɑɚməstəs/ *noun, pl* **-stic•es** [*count*] : an agreement to stop fighting a war : TRUCE

Armistice Day *noun, pl* ~ **Days** [*count, noncount*] *US, old-fashioned* : VETERANS DAY — used before the official adoption of *Veterans Day* in 1954

arm•load /ˈɑɚmˌloʊd/ *noun, pl* **-loads** [*count*] : ARMFUL ▪ an *armload* of clean clothes

ar•moire /ɑɚmˈwɑɚ/ *noun, pl* **-moires** [*count*] : a tall piece of furniture that usually has two doors and that is used to store things (such as clothes)

ar•mor (*US*) *or Brit* **ar•mour** /ˈɑɚmɚ/ *noun* [*noncount*]

1 : special clothing that people wear to protect their bodies from weapons ▪ The officers are required to wear bulletproof body *armor*. ✧ *Armor* commonly refers to the heavy metal suits that men wore long ago when they fought in battles. ▪ medieval suits of *armor* — see also *knight in shining armor* at [1]KNIGHT ✧ A ***chink/crack in someone's or something's armor*** is a weakness that might cause someone or something to fail or to be defeated. ▪ They watched carefully for any *cracks in the other team's armor*. ▪ The plan looks good, but we've found/discovered some *chinks in its armor*. ▪ The scandal revealed/exposed a *chink in his* seemingly perfect *armor*.

2 a : a hard covering that protects something (such as a vehicle or an animal) ▪ The shots penetrated/pierced the tank's *armor*. ▪ an ***armor-plated*** vehicle [=a vehicle that is protected by armor; a vehicle that is covered in flat pieces of metal] ▪ The armadillo's *armor* consists of a series of small, bony plates. — often used before another noun ▪ The ship's hull is reinforced with ***armor plate/plating***. **b :** soldiers and vehicles (such as tanks) that are protected with armor ▪ a weapon designed for use against enemy *armor*

ar•mored (*US*) *or Brit* **ar•moured** /ˈɑɚmɚd/ *adj*

1 : covered in flat pieces of metal : protected by armor ▪ *armored* cars/trucks ▪ a ship with an *armored* hull

2 a : having soldiers and vehicles that are protected with armor ▪ Additional *armored* divisions were deployed to the eastern front. **b :** using soldiers and vehicles that are protected with armor ▪ an *armored* assault/attack

ar•mor•er (*US*) *or Brit* **ar•mour•er** /ˈɑɚmɚɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : a person or business that makes and repairs armor or weapons ▪ The sword was made by a master *armorer*.

ar•mory (*US*) *or Brit* **ar•moury** /ˈɑɚməri/ *noun, pl* **-ies** [*count*]

1 : a supply of weapons ▪ the nation's nuclear *armory* [=*arsenal*] — sometimes used figuratively ▪ The professional artist has an *armory* [=(more commonly) *arsenal, battery, array*] of tools at her disposal.

2 : a place where weapons are kept ▪ the site of a 19th-century *armory*; *especially, US* : a place where weapons are kept and where soldiers are trained ▪ a National Guard *armory*

3 : a place where weapons are made

arm•pit /ˈɑɚmˌpɪt/ *noun, pl* **-pits** [*count*]

1 : the hollow area on a person's body beneath the place where the arm and the shoulder meet — called also *underarm*; see picture at HUMAN

2 *US, informal* : the worst area in a place ▪ a city described as the *armpit* of America

arm•rest /ˈɑɚmˌrɛst/ *noun, pl* **-rests** [*count*] : the part of a seat in a car, an airplane, etc., that supports your arm

arms race *noun, pl* ~ **races** [*count*] : a situation in which countries that are enemies each try to build or collect weapons faster than the other can ▪ a nuclear *arms race*

arm–twist•ing /ˈɑɚmˌtwɪstɪŋ/ *noun* [*noncount*] *informal* : the act of using pressure to make people do things that they do not want to do ▪ There was a lot of political *arm-twisting* before the Senate vote. — see also *twist someone's arm* at [1]TWIST

arm wrestling *noun* [*noncount*] : a contest in which two people sit facing each other and join usually their right hands together and then try to force each other's arm down

– **arm wrestler** *noun, pl* ~ **wrestlers** [*count*]

ar•my /ˈɑɚmi/ *noun, pl* **-mies** [*count*]

1 a : a large group of soldiers organized to fight battles on land ▪ the *armies* of Alexander the Great ▪ raise an *army* **b :** the part of a country's military forces that includes soldiers who are trained to fight on land ▪ He left home and joined the *army* after he graduated from high school. — usually capitalized when a specific army is being referred to ▪ the U.S. *Army*, Navy, Air Force, and Marines ▪ She's in the British *Army*. — often used before another noun ▪ *army* officers/units/barracks

2 : a large number of people or things that are involved in some activity together ▪ The company employs an *army* of lawyers to handle its legal affairs. ▪ They sent in a whole *army* of trained technicians. ▪ an *army* of ants ▪ The organization was founded by a dedicated *army* of volunteers. — see also SALVATION ARMY

aro•ma /əˈroʊmə/ *noun, pl* **-mas** [*count*] : a noticeable and usually pleasant smell ▪ the *aroma* of fresh-baked bread ▪ The wine has a fruity *aroma*.

aro•ma•ther•a•py /əˌroʊməˈθerəpi/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the use of natural oils that have a pleasant smell to make a person feel better especially by rubbing the oils into the skin

– **aro•ma•ther•a•pist** /əˌroʊməˈθerəpɪst/ *noun, pl* **-pists** [*count*]

ar•o•mat•ic /ˌerəˈmætɪk/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : having a noticeable and pleasant smell : FRAGRANT ▪ *aromatic* herbs/oils ▪ a highly *aromatic* stew

arose *past tense of* ARISE

[1]around /əˈraʊnd/ *adv*

1 a : in a circle ▪ The wheel went/turned *around* (and *around*). ▪ We kept going *around* [=(*chiefly Brit*) *round*] in circles without getting anywhere. **b :** in, along, or through a curving path ▪ The road goes *around* [=(*chiefly Brit*) *round*] by the lake. ▪ Don't take the long way *around*: I know a shortcut. **c** *chiefly US* — used to indicate a measurement that is made along the outer surface of something circular ▪ "How big *around* is the tree?" "It's five feet *around*." [=(*chiefly Brit*) *round*] [=the circumference of the tree is five feet]

2 — used to indicate that a number, amount, time, etc., is not exact or certain ▪ The price of dinner was *around* [=(*chiefly US*) *about*] $50. ▪ It lasted *around* [=(*chiefly US*) *about*] a century. ▪ The repair should cost *around* [=*approximately, roughly*] $200. ▪ We should leave in *around* 10 minutes. ▪ We got home at *around* 8 o'clock. = (*US*) We got home ***around about*** 8 o'clock. [=it was approximately 8 o'clock when we got home]

3 a : in close from all sides so as to surround someone or something ▪ People crowded *around* [=(*chiefly Brit*) *round*] to hear her. **b :** in many different directions ▪ They wandered *around* [=(*chiefly Brit*) *about*] for several hours. ▪ He entered the room and looked *around*. **c :** in or to many different places ▪ People were standing *around* [=(*chiefly Brit*) *about*], talking quietly in small groups. ▪ His tools were scattered *around* [=(*chiefly Brit*) *about*] carelessly. ▪ She travels *around* [=(*chiefly Brit*) *about*] on business quite a lot. ▪ This is a very interesting town: let me show you *around*. **d :** in or near a particular area or place ▪ We went to the store, but there was no one *around*. [=there was no one there; (*chiefly Brit*) there was no one about] ▪ Let's wait/stay/stick *around* awhile. ▪ I'm

A

not sure where it is, but it must be *around* somewhere. ▪ It's safer when there are other people *around*. ▪ I'd like to speak to him if he's *around*. ▪ So long, then! ***(I'll) See you around*** [=I'll see you later] **e :** to a particular place ▪ Why don't you come *around* (to my house) for dinner?

4 : in the opposite direction ▪ She turned (completely) *around*. [=(less commonly) *about*, (*chiefly Brit*) *round*]

5 — used with some verbs to indicate repeated or continued action or behavior that does not have a clear or definite purpose ▪ He's always joking *around* when he should be serious. ▪ Don't play/fool *around* with your food like that! ▪ I was just standing *around*, waiting for the train to arrive.

6 — used to describe something that returns in a regular or repeated way ▪ Winter has come *around* [=(*chiefly Brit*) *round*] again.

7 — used to describe how two things are arranged or ordered ▪ You put the fork on the left and the knife on the right. They should be the other way *around*. [=(*chiefly Brit*) *round*] [=the fork should be on the right and the knife on the left] ▪ You've got them the wrong way *around*. [=(*chiefly Brit*) *round*]

come around see [1]COME

[2]around *prep*

1 a : on all sides of (something or someone) ▪ a house with trees (all) *around* [=(*chiefly Brit*) *round*] it ▪ The people were seated *around* the table. ▪ A crowd gathered *around* him. **b :** so as to circle or surround (something or someone) ▪ He tied the rope *around* his waist. ▪ They wrapped the blanket *around* [=*about*] her. **:** moving so as to circle (something or someone) ▪ The Earth revolves/goes/moves *around* [=(*chiefly Brit*) *round*] the Sun. ▪ We went all *around* the lake enjoying the different views. ▪ They sailed *around* the world. **c :** over or in different parts of (a place) ▪ He traveled (all) *around* [=(*chiefly Brit*) *round*] the country. ▪ He's a well-known figure *around* the town. ▪ We drove all *around* the town looking for him. ▪ This is a very interesting town: let me show you *around* it. ▪ We took a tour *around* New England. ▪ You can find lots of good restaurants *around* here. ▪ I help her out sometimes *around* the house. **d :** on or to another side of (something) ▪ We were surprised by what we saw when we walked *around* the corner. ▪ There's another door *around* the back of the house.

2 a : in the area near to (something or someone) ▪ Fish are abundant *around* [=*about, near*] the reefs. ▪ I'm not sure where it is, but it must be somewhere *around* here. = It must be *around* here somewhere. ▪ I feel happier when I'm *around* her. ▪ It happened in Naples—or (somewhere) *around* there. ▪ I can tell from/by your accent that you're not from *around* here. ▪ It's safer when there are other people *around* you. **b :** near or not far from (something) in time ▪ The company was founded (at) *around* [=*about*] the turn of the century. ▪ a night *around* [=*about*] midsummer

3 : so as to avoid or get past (something) ▪ She went *around* the puddle to avoid getting dirty. ▪ We found a way *around* their objections.

4 — used to indicate the central part or idea used for building or organizing something ▪ a society built/organized *around* kinship ties

[3]around *adj, not used before a noun* **:** existing or active ▪ She is among the most creative of the artists *around* [=*active, working*] today.

been around ✧ Something that has *been around* for a long time has existed or been available for a long time. ▪ I'm surprised you haven't read that book yet. It's *been around* [=*been out*] for ages! A person who has *been around* has had a lot of different experiences and knows a lot about the world. ▪ You're a man of the world: I can tell you've *been around*.

up and around see [2]UP

around–the–clock *adj, always used before a noun, chiefly US* **:** happening or continuing all day and all night ▪ The prisoner requires *around-the-clock* [=*round-the-clock, constant*] surveillance. ▪ *around-the-clock* care

arouse /ə'raʊz/ *verb* **arouses; aroused; arous·ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to cause (an emotional or mental state) ▪ He tried to sneak past without *arousing* suspicion. [=without causing people to become suspicious] ▪ Their comments *aroused* our anger/curiosity. [=their comments made us angry/curious] ▪ The report *aroused* a great deal of public interest/debate. ▪ She *aroused* [=*inspired*] great loyalty in her friends and extreme hatred in her enemies.

2 : to excite (someone) sexually ▪ The husky sound of her voice could always *arouse* him.

3 a : to wake (someone) from sleep ▪ She was sleeping so soundly that we had difficulty *arousing* her. [=(more commonly) *waking her up*] ▪ I was *aroused* [=*roused, awakened*] from a deep sleep by a loud noise outside my window. **b :** to cause (someone) to become active, ready, or upset ▪ Their proposal is certain to *arouse* the opposition. ▪ They get *aroused* [=(more commonly) *worked up*] over the slightest offense.

– arous·al /ə'raʊzəl/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ sexual *arousal*
– arousing *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] ▪ He found the idea very *arousing*. [=sexually exciting]

ar·peg·gio /ɑə'pɛʤijoʊ/ *noun, pl* **-gios** [*count*] *music* **:** a chord in which the notes are played separately instead of at the same time ▪ The guitarist warmed up with a few simple *arpeggios*.

arr. *abbr* **1** arranged by ▪ String Quartet No. 11 by Beethoven (*arr.* Mahler) **2** arrive, arrival ▪ flight 206 *arr.* New York 12:30 p.m.

ar·raign /ə'reɪn/ *verb* **-raigns; -raigned; -raign·ing** [+ *obj*] *law* **:** to state the charges against someone who is accused of a crime in a formal procedure before a judge — usually used as *(be) arraigned* ▪ He *was arraigned* on charges of manslaughter.

– ar·raign·ment /ə'reɪnmənt/ *noun, pl* **-ments** [*count*] Her *arraignment* is scheduled for two weeks from today. [*noncount*] The defendant failed to appear for *arraignment*.

ar·range /ə'reɪnʤ/ *verb* **-rang·es; -ranged; -rang·ing**

1 [+ *obj*] **a :** to move and organize (things) into a particular order or position ▪ She *arranged* her pictures on her desk. ▪ He *arranged* some fresh fruit neatly on a plate. ▪ *arranging* flowers in a vase ▪ The books were *arranged* according to their subject. = The books were *arranged* by subject. ▪ We *arranged* and rearranged the order several times. **b :** to give a particular order or position to the parts of (something) ▪ They *arranged* [=*organized*] the room around a fireplace. ▪ She *arranged* her hair on top of her head.

2 : to organize the details of something before it happens **:** to plan (something) [+ *obj*] Don't worry: I'll *arrange* [=*take care of, deal with*] everything. ▪ All of the details have been *arranged* [=*taken care of, dealt with*] in advance. ▪ Please *arrange* a meeting with your partners. ▪ *arrange* a funeral ▪ I think we can *arrange* a deal. ▪ Let's *arrange* our schedules so that we can meet for lunch. ▪ They *arranged* their daughter's marriage when she was a child. [=they chose who she would marry] ▪ You'll need to *arrange* transportation from the airport. [*no obj*] — often + *for* ▪ You'll need to *arrange for* transportation from the airport. ▪ She *arranged for* a car to pick us up at our house. ▪ Can you *arrange for* us to meet your friend? — often followed by *to* + *verb* ▪ I can *arrange to have* the day off from work. ▪ They *arranged to meet* each other at the restaurant.

3 [+ *obj*] *music* **:** to change (a song, a musical, etc.) so that it can be performed by particular voices or instruments ▪ He *arranged* her last two albums.

arranged marriage *noun, pl* **~ -riages** [*count*] **:** a marriage in which the husband and wife are chosen for each other by their parents

ar·range·ment /ə'reɪnʤmənt/ *noun, pl* **-ments**

1 : the way that things or people are organized for a particular purpose or activity **:** the way that things or people are arranged [*noncount*] They changed the *arrangement* of furniture in the room. ▪ the dictionary's alphabetical *arrangement* [=*ordering*] of words ▪ the collection and *arrangement* of data [*count*] a chronological *arrangement* of historical events ▪ We tried several different *arrangements* of the parts/components/elements. ▪ Having my brother and his wife living nearby was an ideal *arrangement* for our family. ▪ The family had very unusual living *arrangements*. ▪ "What were your sleeping *arrangements*?" "I slept on the bed while he slept on the floor." ▪ We'll have to change the seating *arrangements* for the dinner party.

2 : something that is done to prepare or plan for something in the future [*count*] — usually plural ▪ She has her secretary handle all of her travel *arrangements*. ▪ He helped his mother with his father's funeral *arrangements*. — often used with *make* ▪ The city *made* special *arrangements* [=*preparations*] for the Queen's visit. ▪ All of the *arrangements* have been *made* in advance. ▪ They *made arrangements* to meet each other at the restaurant. ▪ We provide breakfast and dinner, but you *make* your own *arrangements* for lunch. [*non-*

count] Her job includes *arrangement* of her boss's travel plans.

3 [*count*] : a usually informal agreement ▪ There was an unusual political *arrangement* between the two countries. ▪ business/financial *arrangements* ▪ I'm sure we can come to some *arrangement*. — often + *with* ▪ Our band has an *arrangement with* the club's manager. ▪ The company made an *arrangement with* the college to supply all of its computers.

4 [*count*] : something made by putting things together and organizing them ▪ a flower/floral *arrangement* = an *arrangement* of flowers

5 [*count*] *music* : a piece of music that has been changed so that it can be performed by particular types of voices or instruments ▪ orchestral/vocal *arrangements* ▪ an *arrangement* for the guitar ▪ a rock *arrangement* of an old blues song

ar•rang•er /əˈreɪndʒɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]

1 : a person who changes pieces of music for particular voices or instruments : a person who arranges music ▪ a talented composer and *arranger*

2 : a person who arranges things ▪ a flower *arranger* ▪ a funeral *arranger* ▪ an *arranger* [=(more commonly) *organizer*] of political rallies

ar•rant /ˈerənt/ *adj, always used before a noun* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *somewhat old-fashioned + literary* : of the worst kind — used to make a statement more forceful ▪ This is *arrant* [=*utter, complete*] nonsense! ▪ an *arrant* fool

> Do not confuse *arrant* with *errant*.

[1]ar•ray /əˈreɪ/ *noun, pl* **-rays**

1 [*count*] : a large group or number *of* things — usually singular ▪ They offer a wide/vast/bewildering *array of* products and services. ▪ The car is available in an *array of* colors. [=in many different colors] ▪ We encountered a whole *array of* problems. [=many problems]

2 [*count*] *technical* **a** : a group of numbers, symbols, etc., that are arranged in rows and columns **b** : a way of organizing pieces of information in the memory of a computer so that similar kinds of information are together

3 [*count*] *technical* : a group of devices that together form a unit ▪ an antenna *array* ▪ an *array* of solar panels

4 [*noncount*] *formal + literary* : rich or beautiful clothing ▪ She was dressed in grand/glorious *array*.

[2]array *verb* **-rays**; **-rayed**; **-ray•ing** [+ *obj*] *formal*

1 : to place (a group of things) in a particular position so that they are in order or so that they look attractive — usually used as *(be) arrayed* ▪ The layers consist of bricks *arrayed* [=*arranged*] in regular patterns. ▪ The table *was arrayed* with all sorts of delicacies. [=there were all sorts of delicacies placed attractively on the table]

2 *literary* : to dress (someone, especially yourself) in fine clothing ▪ She *arrayed* herself in rich velvets and satins.

3 : to put (soldiers) in a place or position so that they are ready to attack ▪ They *arrayed* [=*deployed*] the troops along the hilltop. — usually used as *(be) arrayed* ▪ The troops *were arrayed* along the hilltop. ▪ The general surveyed the forces *arrayed* against him.

ar•rears /əˈrɪɚz/ *noun* [*plural*]

1 : money that is owed and that has not been paid when it should be ▪ He's been trying pay off the *arrears* on his mortgage. ▪ alimony/rent *arrears*

2 — used to describe a situation in which someone has failed to make a regular payment at the required time ▪ He is two months ***in arrears*** [=*behind*] with his mortgage payments. ▪ The account is two months *in arrears*. [=*overdue, delinquent*] ▪ He has fallen ***into arrears*** on his mortgage payments.

3 — used to describe a situation in which someone is paid money that was earned at an earlier time ▪ You will be paid interest on your investment ***in arrears***. ▪ construction workers paid *in arrears* for their work

[1]ar•rest /əˈrɛst/ *verb* **-rests**; **-rest•ed**; **-rest•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to use the power of the law to take and keep (someone, such as a criminal) ▪ The police *arrested* him on drug charges. ▪ The police officer said, "I'm *arresting* you in the name of the law." — often used as *(be) arrested* ▪ He *was arrested* for assault. ▪ She threatened to have him *arrested*. ▪ He got *arrested*. ✧ A person who is arrested by the police is taken to a police station or jail and kept there.

2 *formal* : to stop the progress or movement of (something) ▪ The medics were unable to *arrest* [=*stop*] the bleeding. ▪ The drugs can't *arrest* the disease's progress, but they can slow it down considerably. ▪ *arrested* development

3 *formal* : to attract and hold the attention of (someone or something) ▪ colors that *arrest* [=*catch*] the eye ▪ My attention was *arrested* [=*caught*] by a sudden movement.

– arresting *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ an *arresting* [=*eye-catching*] painting/image ▪ his most *arresting* novel yet

[2]arrest *noun, pl* **-rests**

1 : the act of legally taking and keeping someone (such as a criminal) : the act of arresting someone [*count*] The police are investigating the case but they have not yet made any *arrests*. [*noncount*] She was charged with resisting *arrest*. ▪ He has accused the police of wrongful *arrest*. [=of arresting someone who should not have been arrested] ▪ The information has led to the *arrest* of three suspects. ▪ The police placed/put her ***under arrest***. [=the police arrested her] — see also CITIZEN'S ARREST, FALSE ARREST, HOUSE ARREST

2 *medical* : an occurrence in which a part of the body suddenly stops working [*noncount*] The patient went into ***cardiac arrest***. [=the patient's heart stopped beating] [*count*] The hospital reported an increase in ***respiratory arrests***. [=instances in which patients stopped breathing]

ar•riv•al /əˈraɪvəl/ *noun, pl* **-als**

1 : the act of coming to or reaching a place : the act of arriving [*noncount*] They were awaiting the *arrival* of guests. ▪ We checked into the hotel upon (our) *arrival*. ▪ The flight's estimated time of *arrival* is 11:30. = The flight's estimated *arrival* time is 11:30. ▪ When is the mail scheduled for *arrival*? [*count*] They track the number of airport *arrivals* and departures.

2 [*count*] : someone or something that has come to a place : someone or something that has arrived ▪ They were late *arrivals* at the party. ▪ Have you had a look at the bookstore's new *arrivals*? [=the books that have recently come to the bookstore] ✧ The phrase ***new arrival*** is often used to refer to a baby that has recently been born. ▪ Everyone gathered at the hospital to see the family's *new arrival*.

3 [*noncount*] : the time when something begins or happens ▪ They are eagerly awaiting the *arrival* of their wedding day. ▪ the changes that occur with the *arrival* of spring ▪ the *arrival* of new technology

ar•rive /əˈraɪv/ *verb* **-rives**; **-rived**; **-riv•ing** [*no obj*]

1 : to come to or reach a place after traveling, being sent, etc. ▪ He *arrived* home at six o'clock. ▪ We had some dinner before/on/upon/after *arriving* at the station. ▪ When do you expect them to *arrive* in Boston? ▪ Their flight is due to *arrive* at 11:30. ▪ The train from New York is now *arriving*. ▪ They *arrived* late at the party. ▪ The mail hasn't *arrived* yet. ▪ The new version of the software has finally *arrived* in stores.

2 a *of a day, season, time, etc.* : to happen or begin ▪ The day of their wedding has almost *arrived*. [=*come*] ▪ The time has *arrived* [=*come*] to address the problem. ▪ There's always a lot to do when spring *arrives*. **b** *of a baby* : to be born ▪ When is their baby expected to *arrive*?

3 *informal* : to become successful — used with a form of *have* ▪ After years of climbing the corporate ladder, he felt he *had* finally *arrived*.

arrive at [*phrasal verb*] ***arrive at (something)*** : to make or reach (something, such as a decision) after a lot of thought or effort ▪ She finally *arrived at* a decision. ▪ They've *arrived at* the conclusion that the plan won't work. ▪ I hope we can *arrive at* some sort of understanding/consensus.

ar•ro•gance /ˈerəgəns/ *noun* : an insulting way of thinking or behaving that comes from believing that you are better, smarter, or more important than other people [*noncount*] Her *arrogance* has earned her a lot of enemies. ▪ We were shocked by the *arrogance* of his comments. [*singular*] They have an *arrogance* about them. [=there is something in their behavior that seems arrogant]

ar•ro•gant /ˈerəgənt/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : having or showing the insulting attitude of people who believe that they are better, smarter, or more important than other people : having or showing arrogance ▪ an *arrogant* young attorney ▪ She's first in her class, but she's not *arrogant* about it. ▪ an *arrogant* remark/attitude

– ar•ro•gant•ly *adv* ▪ She *arrogantly* dismissed their claims.

ar•ro•gate /ˈerəˌgeɪt/ *verb* **-gates**; **-gat•ed**; **-gat•ing** [+ *obj*] *formal* : to take or claim (something, such as a right or a privilege) in a way that is not fair or legal ▪ They've ***arrogated to themselves*** the power to change the rules arbitrarily. ▪ She *arrogated* the leadership role *to herself*.

ar•row /ˈeroʊ/ *noun, pl* **-rows** [*count*]

1 : a weapon that is made to be shot from a bow and that is usually a stick with a point at one end and feathers at the other end ▪ shoot an *arrow*

A

2 : a mark (such as →) that is shaped like an arrow and that is used to show direction ▪ The *arrow* on the map points north. — see also STRAIGHT ARROW

ar•row•head /'erou̯ˌhɛd/ *noun, pl* **-heads** [*count*] : a piece of stone or metal that forms the point of an arrow

ar•row•root /'erou̯ˌru:t/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a powdery substance that is made from the root of a tropical plant and that is used in cooking to make liquids thicker

arse /'ɑəs/ *noun, pl* **ars•es** [*count*] *Brit, informal + offensive* : ²ASS 1

arse•hole /'ɑəsˌhoul/ *noun, pl* **-holes** [*count*] *Brit, informal + offensive* : ASSHOLE

ar•se•nal /'ɑəsənəl/ *noun, pl* **-nals** [*count*]

1 a : a collection of weapons ▪ the nation's nuclear *arsenal* [=the nuclear weapons that the nation has] **b** : a place where weapons are made or stored ▪ The city is home to a federal *arsenal*.

2 : a group of things or people that are available to be used ▪ The computer comes equipped with an *arsenal* [=*battery, array*] of features. ▪ Doctors have a broad *arsenal* of medicines to choose from. ▪ the team's *arsenal* of veteran players

ar•se•nic /'ɑəsənɪk/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a poisonous chemical that is used especially to kill insects and weeds

ar•son /'ɑəsn̩/ *noun, pl* **-sons** : the illegal burning of a building or other property : the crime of setting fire to something [*noncount*] The cause of the fire has not yet been determined, but investigators suspect *arson*. ▪ The town has suffered a rash of *arson* attacks. [*count*] The town has suffered a rash of *arsons*.

– **ar•son•ist** /'ɑəsn̩ɪst/ *noun, pl* **-ists** [*count*] ▪ Investigators suspect that the fire was set by an *arsonist*.

art /'ɑət/ *noun, pl* **arts**

1 [*noncount*] : something that is created with imagination and skill and that is beautiful or that expresses important ideas or feelings ▪ a piece of modern/contemporary *art* ▪ It's a remarkable picture, but is it *art*? — see also OP-ART, PERFORMANCE ART, POP ART, WORK OF ART

2 [*noncount*] : works created by artists : paintings, sculptures, etc., that are created to be beautiful or to express important ideas or feelings ▪ the *art* [=*artwork*] of Salvador Dalí ▪ The museum has a large collection of folk *art*. ▪ African/Japanese/Mayan *art* — often used before another noun ▪ *art* history ▪ *art* objects ▪ an *art* museum/gallery ▪ an *art* collector/lover ▪ She prefers *art* films to Hollywood blockbusters. — see also ARTS AND CRAFTS

3 [*noncount*] : the methods and skills used for painting, sculpting, drawing, etc. ▪ He studied *art* in college. — often used before another noun ▪ an *art* teacher/program

4 a [*count*] : an activity that is done to create something beautiful or to express important ideas or feelings ▪ She studied the *art* of drawing/painting/dance. ▪ dance, drama, and other *art* forms ▪ the performing/visual/graphic *arts* — see also FINE ART **b** ***the arts*** : painting, sculpture, music, theater, literature, etc., considered as a group of activities done by people with skill and imagination ▪ She's a patron of *the arts*. ▪ He wants the government to increase its funding for *the arts*. — see also PERFORMING ARTS

5 [*count*] : a skill that someone learns through experience or study — usually singular ▪ He never learned the *art* of making friends. [=he never learned how to make friends] ▪ She's a master of the *art* of conversation. [=she is very good at conversation] ▪ There's an *art* to cooking that comes only with practice. ▪ Writing letters has become something of a ***lost art***. [=not many people write letters any more] ✧ If you ***raise/elevate something to an art (form)*** you are known for doing something or having something (such as a personal quality). This phrase is often used in an ironic or joking way to describe qualities or abilities that are not admired. ▪ He seems to have *elevated stupidity to an art form*. [=he is very stupid]

6 [*count*] : an activity that requires special knowledge or skill ▪ Shipbuilding is both an *art* and a science. ▪ the *art* of navigation — see also MARTIAL ART

7 *arts* [*plural*] : areas of study (such as history, language, and literature) that are intended to develop the mind in a general way : LIBERAL ARTS ▪ a bachelor of *arts* ▪ the College of *Arts* and Sciences

art de•co *or* **Art Deco** /ˌɑət'dɛkou̯/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a style of art, design, and architecture that uses bold lines and simple shapes ✧ Art Deco was popular in the U.S. and Europe in the 1920s and 1930s. ▪ an *Art Deco* vase/building

artefact *chiefly Brit spelling of* ARTIFACT

ar•te•rio•scle•ro•sis /ɑəˌtirijou̯sklə'rou̯səs/ *noun* [*noncount*] *medical* : a disease in which the walls of arteries become thick and hard so that it is difficult for blood to flow through them

– **ar•te•rio•scle•rot•ic** /ɑəˌtiərijou̯sklə'rɑtɪk/ *adj* ▪ *arteriosclerotic* heart disease

ar•tery /'ɑətəri/ *noun, pl* **-ter•ies** [*count*]

1 : any one of the tubes that carry blood from the heart to all parts of the body ▪ coronary *arteries* ▪ clogged *arteries* — compare VEIN

2 : a large road, river, railroad line, etc. ▪ He favors local side roads over major *arteries*.

– **ar•te•ri•al** /ɑə'tʰirijəl/ *adj* ▪ *arterial* walls/pressure/blood ▪ *arterial* roads

ar•te•sian well /ɑə'ti:ʒən-/ *noun, pl* ~ **wells** [*count*] : a place in the ground where water flows up to the surface because of natural pressure

art•ful /'ɑətfəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

1 : done with or showing artistic skill ▪ *artful* writing ▪ an *artful* performance/arrangement

2 : good at getting or achieving things in ways that are clever and not noticeable ▪ an *artful* negotiator : used to get or achieve things in ways that are clever and not noticeable ▪ *artful* questioning ✧ This sense of *artful* is sometimes used in a disapproving way, especially in British English. ▪ an *artful* [=*crafty, sly*] politician who seems to have deceived everyone ▪ *artful* deception — compare ARTLESS

– **art•ful•ly** /'ɑətfəli/ *adv* ▪ an *artfully* arranged display – **art•ful•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

art house *noun, pl* ~ **houses** [*count*] : a movie theater that shows mostly foreign movies and movies that are made by small companies : a building where art films are shown — called also *art theater*

ar•thri•tis /ɑə'θraɪtəs/ *noun* [*noncount*] *medical* : a disease that causes the joints of the body to become swollen and painful — see also RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

– **ar•thrit•ic** /ɑə'θrɪtɪk/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ painful *arthritic* fingers/joints ▪ *arthritic* symptoms – **arthritic** *noun, pl* **-ics** [*count*] ▪ medicines used for treating *arthritics* [=people who have arthritis]

ar•ti•choke /'ɑətəˌʧouk/ *noun, pl* **-chokes** [*count*] : a vegetable with thick, pointed leaves ✧ The artichoke consists of a soft middle part surrounded by small, thick leaves. The middle, known as the *heart* of the artichoke, and the bottom part of the leaves are eaten after being cooked. — see color picture on page C4; see also JERUSALEM ARTICHOKE

¹ar•ti•cle /'ɑətɪkəl/ *noun, pl* **-ti•cles** [*count*]

1 : a piece of writing about a particular subject that is included in a magazine, newspaper, etc. ▪ a magazine/newspaper *article* ▪ I just read an interesting *article* on/about the city's early history. ▪ He has published numerous *articles* in scholarly journals. ▪ an encyclopedia *article*

2 : a particular kind of object ▪ an *article* [=*piece*] of clothing ▪ domestic/household *articles* ▪ *articles* [=*pieces*] of furniture — sometimes used figuratively ▪ For many people it is an ***article of faith*** [=something that is believed without being questioned or doubted] that the economy will begin to improve soon. ▪ A lot of people pretend to be cowboys, but he's ***the genuine article***. [=he's a real cowboy]

3 : a separate part of a legal document that deals with a single subject ▪ *Article* 3 of the U.S. Constitution ▪ The company amended its *articles* of incorporation.

4 *grammar* : a word (such as *a, an*, or *the*) that is used with a noun to show whether or not the noun refers to a specific person or thing — see also DEFINITE ARTICLE, INDEFINITE ARTICLE

²article *verb* **-ticles**; **-ti•cled**; **-ti•cling** *Brit* : to work for a group of lawyers, architects, etc., while you are learning to become a lawyer, architect, etc. [*no obj*] He *articled* at the famous law firm many years ago. [+ *obj*] — usually used as *(be) articled to* ▪ She *was articled to* a firm of engineers.

– **articled** *adj* ▪ an *articled* clerk

¹ar•tic•u•late /ɑə'tɪkjələt/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

1 : able to express ideas clearly and effectively in speech or writing ▪ She's an intelligent and *articulate* speaker. ▪ He was very *articulate* about his feelings on the subject. — opposite INARTICULATE

2 : clearly expressed and easily understood ▪ an *articulate* argument/essay/speech ▪ The baby is beginning to form *articulate* words and phrases. — opposite INARTICULATE

– **ar•tic•u•late•ly** *adv* ▪ She spoke clearly and *articulately*. – **ar•tic•u•late•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

[2]ar•tic•u•late /ɑɚˈtɪkjəˌleɪt/ *verb* **-lates; -lat•ed; -lat•ing**
1 [+ *obj*] : to express (something, such as an idea) in words ▪ He had some trouble *articulating* his thoughts. ▪ We disagree with the views *articulated* by the administration. ▪ a theory first *articulated* by ancient philosophers
2 : to say or pronounce (something, such as a word) in a way that can be clearly heard and understood [+ *obj*] She spoke slowly, *articulating* [=*enunciating*] each syllable. [*no obj*] Try to *articulate* [=*enunciate*] when delivering your speech.
3 [*no obj*] *technical* : to connect with a joint or something that is like a joint ▪ the bones that *articulate* with the clavicle

ar•tic•u•lat•ed /ɑɚˈtɪkjəˌleɪɾəd/ *adj*
1 : connected by a joint ▪ dolls with *articulated* limbs [=arms and legs that can be moved because they are connected by joints] ▪ dinosaurs with *articulated* skulls
2 *of a vehicle* : having a front section connected to a large back section by means of a hinge or a joint that allows sharp turns ▪ an *articulated* bus ▪ (*Brit*) *articulated* lorries

ar•tic•u•la•tion /ɑɚˌtɪkjəˈleɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions**
1 [*noncount*] *formal* : the act of articulating something: such as **a** : the act of expressing an idea, thought, etc., in words ▪ The book is the *articulation* of his vision. **b** : the act of saying or pronouncing something in a way that can be clearly heard and understood ▪ the *articulation* of consonants
2 [*count*] *medical* : a joint that allows connected parts (such as bones) to move ▪ the *articulations* between vertebrae

ar•ti•fact (*chiefly US*) *or chiefly Brit* **ar•te•fact** /ˈɑɚtɪˌfækt/ *noun, pl* **-facts** [*count*]
1 : a simple object (such as a tool or weapon) that was made by people in the past ▪ The caves contained many prehistoric *artifacts*. ▪ an *artifact* from the Colonial period
2 : an accidental effect that causes incorrect results — usually + *of* ▪ The drop in scores was merely an *artifact of* the way the test was administered.

ar•ti•fice /ˈɑɚtəfəs/ *noun, pl* **-fic•es** : dishonest or insincere behavior or speech that is meant to deceive someone [*noncount*] He spoke without *artifice* or pretense. [*count*] political/legal *artifices* ▪ The whole story was just an *artifice* to win our sympathy.

ar•ti•fi•cial /ˌɑɚtəˈfɪʃl/ *adj*
1 : not natural or real : made, produced, or done to seem like something natural ▪ *artificial* lighting/plants ▪ the world's first *artificial* heart ▪ This product contains no *artificial* colors/flavors/sweeteners—only natural substances are used.
2 : not happening or existing naturally : created or caused by people ▪ *artificial* price inflation ▪ The country's borders are *artificial*, and were set with no consideration for the various ethnic groups in the region.
3 [*more* ~; *most* ~] : not sincere ▪ an *artificial* smile ▪ Her concern seemed a bit *artificial*. [=*forced*]
– **ar•ti•fi•ci•al•i•ty** /ˌɑɚtəˌfɪʃiˈæləti/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the *artificiality* of his manner/smile – **ar•ti•fi•cial•ly** *adv* ▪ *artificially* flavored/colored ▪ The building is *artificially* lit.

artificial insemination *noun* [*noncount*] *medical* : a medical process in which semen is used to make a woman or female animal pregnant without sexual intercourse ▪ children conceived through *artificial insemination*

artificial intelligence *noun* [*noncount*] *computers*
1 : an area of computer science that deals with giving machines the ability to seem like they have human intelligence
2 : the power of a machine to copy intelligent human behavior ▪ a robot with *artificial intelligence* — abbr. *AI*

artificial respiration *noun* [*noncount*] *medical* : a process in which air is forced into and out of the lungs of a person who has stopped breathing ✧ Artificial respiration can be done by pressing on the person's chest, by blowing into the person's mouth, or by using a special machine. — see also MOUTH-TO-MOUTH RESUSCITATION

ar•til•lery /ɑɚˈtɪlɚi/ *noun* [*noncount*]
1 : large guns that are used to shoot over a great distance ▪ The troops were being bombarded by *artillery*. — often used before another noun ▪ The troops were under heavy *artillery* fire. ▪ *artillery* shells — often used figuratively ▪ His first argument didn't work, so he brought out the ***heavy artillery***. [=he started using a different and more powerful argument]
2 : the part of an army that uses large guns to shoot over a great distance ▪ a captain in the *artillery* — often used before another noun ▪ *artillery* units

ar•ti•san /ˈɑɚtəzən, *Brit* ˌɑːtəˈzæn/ *noun, pl* **-sans** [*count*] : a person who is skilled at making things by hand : CRAFTSPERSON ▪ They sell rugs made by local *artisans*.

art•ist /ˈɑɚtɪst/ *noun, pl* **-ists** [*count*]
1 : a person who creates art ▪ the great *artists* of the Renaissance ▪ a graphic *artist* : a person who is skilled at drawing, painting, etc. ▪ I can't draw at all, but both of my children are very talented *artists*. [=they draw very well]
2 : a skilled performer ▪ a jazz *artist* ▪ a trapeze *artist* ▪ famous ***recording artists*** [=singers and musicians who record their music]
3 : a person who is very good at something ▪ She's an *artist* in her field. [=she's very good at her job] ▪ a scam *artist* — see also RIP-OFF ARTIST

ar•tiste /ɑɚˈtiːst/ *noun, pl* **-tists** [*count*] *chiefly Brit* : a skilled performer : ARTIST

ar•tis•tic /ɑɚˈtɪstɪk/ *adj*
1 : relating to art or artists ▪ her *artistic* achievements ▪ a work of *artistic* value ▪ He shows real *artistic* talent.
2 [*more* ~; *most* ~] : having or showing the skill of an artist ▪ *artistic* creations ▪ She's an *artistic* person. [=a creative person] ▪ Both of my children are very *artistic*.
– **ar•tis•ti•cal•ly** /ɑɚˈtɪstɪkli/ *adv* ▪ an *artistically* arranged bouquet ▪ He's not *artistically* inclined. [=he doesn't have artistic skill]

art•ist•ry /ˈɑɚtəstri/ *noun* [*noncount*]
1 : artistic ability or skill ▪ We admired the singer's *artistry*.
2 : a quality that results from artistic ability or skill ▪ the *artistry* of her novel

art•less /ˈɑɚtləs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : not false or artificial : NATURAL ▪ the dancer's *artless* grace ▪ Her simple *artless* charm won us over instantly. — compare ARTFUL
– **art•less•ly** *adv* – **art•less•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

art nou•veau *or* **Art Nouveau** /ˌɑɚtnuˈvoʊ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a style of art, design, and architecture that uses curving lines and shapes that look like leaves and flowers ✧ Art Nouveau was popular in the U.S. and Europe in the late 1800s. ▪ an *Art Nouveau* lamp

arts and crafts *noun* [*plural*] : objects that are meant to be both useful and beautiful ▪ a shop that sells local *arts and crafts*, such as pottery and baskets : the activity of making such objects ▪ demonstrations of various *arts and crafts* ▪ the ***Arts and Crafts Movement*** [=a time when many people were working together to make arts and crafts popular] in the second half of the 19th century

art•sy /ˈɑɚtsi/ *adj* **art•si•er; -est** [*or more* ~; *most* ~] *chiefly US, informal* + *usually disapproving* : ARTY ▪ an *artsy* neighborhood ▪ Her boyfriend is the *artsy* type.

art theater *noun, pl* ~ **-ter** [*count*] : ART HOUSE

art•work /ˈɑɚtˌwɚk/ *noun, pl* **-works**
1 : a painting, sculpture, photograph, etc., that is created to be beautiful or to express an important idea or feeling : an artistic work [*noncount*] A local painter was selling her *artwork* on the street. ▪ The walls of the restaurant are decorated in original *artwork*. ▪ Some of the children's *artwork* was hanging on the refrigerator. [*count*] The museum recently recovered two stolen *artworks*. ▪ contemporary *artworks*
2 [*noncount*] : drawings, photographs, etc., that are included in books, magazines, and other printed materials

arty /ˈɑɚti/ *adj* **art•i•er; -est** [*or more* ~; *most* ~] *informal* + *usually disapproving* : artistic in a way that seems insincere or too extreme ▪ some *arty* intellectual type who doesn't know the meaning of hard work ▪ a rock band with *arty* pretensions

aru•gu•la /əˈruːgələ, *Brit* əˈruːgjələ/ *noun* [*noncount*] *US* : a plant with strongly flavored leaves that are eaten in salads — called also (*Brit*) *rocket*

[1]-ary *noun suffix* : thing or person belonging to or connected with ▪ mission*ary* ▪ revolution*ary*

[2]-ary *adj suffix* : of, relating to, or connected with ▪ diet*ary* ▪ legend*ary*

[1]as /ˈæz, əz/ *adv*
1 : to the same degree or amount ▪ He has a lot of time but I don't have *as* much. [=I have less time than he has] ▪ He has many books, but I have ***just as*** many. [=I have the same amount of books that he has] ▪ He was angry, but she was *just as* angry.
2 *formal* — used to introduce an example ▪ various trees, *as* [=*such as*] oaks and pines

[2]as *conj*
1 a — used to make comparisons ▪ The fabric was soft *as* silk. [=the softness of the fabric was like the softness of silk] — usually used in the phrase ***as . . . as*** ▪ The fabric was *as* soft *as* silk. ▪ He is every bit *as* clever *as* she (is). ▪ There are *as* many books here *as* (there are) there. ▪ That was *as* deli-

A

cious a meal *as* your last one (was). = That was a meal *as* delicious *as* your last one (was). ▪ *as* hard *as* a rock [=very hard] ▪ *as* clear *as* crystal [=completely clear] ▪ *as* white *as* snow [=snow-white, pure white] ▪ He is *as* brave *as* he is loyal. ▪ Her second book is twice *as* long *as* her first one. ▪ He's not *as* old *as* he claims to be. — sometimes used in negative phrases with *so* ▪ He's not *so* old *as* he claims to be. **b** — used in the phrase ***as . . . as*** to say when something should be done, how often something should happen, etc. ▪ Come back *as* often *as* you like. ▪ If you're going to look for a new job, you should do it ***as soon/early/quickly as possible***.

2 a : in the way that ▪ The letter "k" is sometimes silent, *as* it is in "knee." ▪ In the word "macho" the "ch" should be pronounced *as* (it is) in "China," not *as* (it is) in "Chicago." ▪ Knowing him *as* I do [=because I know him well], I'm not surprised by his decision. ▪ Do (it) *as* I do. ▪ I'll do it *as* I planned (to). ▪ Sometimes a noun comes from a verb (*as* "publisher" comes from "publish") and sometimes a verb comes from a noun (*as* "edit" comes from "editor"). ▪ ***As it happens***, I know his brother. [=I happen to know his brother] ▪ We planned a picnic but, ***as it happened***, it rained that day. [=it happened to rain that day] ▪ We arrived late and, ***as it turned out***, all the tickets were already sold. [=we learned that all the tickets were already sold when we arrived late] ▪ He seemed to be having a midlife crisis, *as* many men do. = ***As is the case*** with many men, he seemed to be having a midlife crisis. **b** — used to introduce a statement which indicates that something being mentioned was known, expected, etc. ▪ He won the election, *as* you know. = *As* you know, he won the election. ▪ *As* was only to be expected, the election was very close. ▪ He is a foreigner, *as* is evident from his accent. ▪ It rained that day, *as* often happens. ▪ Just *as* I suspected/thought! You've been drinking! **c** — used in phrases with *same* ▪ He works in the *same* building *as* my brother. [=he and my brother work in the same building] ▪ I've got shoes the *same as* his. = I've got the *same* type of shoes *as* he has. [=my shoes and his shoes are the same] ▪ He was fooled the *same as* I was. [=he and I were both fooled]

3 : while or when ▪ She spilled the milk just *as* she was getting up. ▪ I met him *as* I was leaving.

4 : regardless of the degree to which : THOUGH ▪ Unaccustomed *as* I am to public speaking [=although I am unaccustomed to public speaking], I'd like to say a few words now. ▪ Improbable *as* it seems, it's still true. = (*chiefly US*) *As* improbable *as* it seems, it's still true. [=although it seems improbable, it's still true] ▪ ***Much as*** I respect him [=although I respect him very much], I still have to disagree with him on this point. = (*chiefly US*) ***As much as*** I respect him, I still have to disagree with him on this point. ▪ ***Try as he might*** [=no matter how hard he tried], he couldn't do it.

5 *formal* **:** for the reason that : BECAUSE ▪ She stayed home *as* she had no car. ▪ *As* I'm a pacifist, I'm against all wars.

6 — used to indicate that one relationship is like another relationship ▪ A puppy is to a dog *as* a kitten is to a cat. ▪ Two is to four *as* eight is to sixteen.

7 — used with *so* or *such* to indicate the result or effect of something ▪ The evidence is *such as* to leave no doubt of his guilt. [=the evidence leaves no doubt of his guilt] ▪ He is *so* clearly guilty *as* to leave no doubt. — see also SO AS (below)

as against **:** in comparison to (something) ▪ The government's foreign policy is approved by 54 percent of men *as against* 48 percent of women.

as for **:** with regard to : CONCERNING ▪ He's here. *As for* the others, they'll arrive later. [=the others will arrive later] ▪ He was a nice enough person, but *as for* his suggestions, I found them unhelpful.

as from *chiefly Brit* — used to indicate the time or date when something begins ▪ The new law takes effect *as from* [=*as of*] July 1.

as if *or* ***as though*** **1 :** the way it would be if ▪ The plane looked *as if* it was going to crash. ▪ He was as sad *as if* he had lost his last friend. ▪ The dog wagged its tail *as if* to say "Welcome back!" = The dog wagged its tail *as if* it was/were saying "Welcome back!" ▪ The day seemed *as though* it would never end. = It seemed *as though* the day would never end. **2 :** as someone would do if ▪ He ran *as if* ghosts were chasing him. ▪ He had his hands together *as though* in prayer. **3** — used in spoken phrases to say that something is not true, will not happen, etc. ▪ "She's afraid you might try to take the job yourself." "***As if I ever would!***" [=I never would] ▪ "He'll never come back, you know!" "***As if I cared!***" [=I don't care] **4** ✧ The phrase *as if* is sometimes used informally as an interjection to say that something suggested or claimed is impossible or very unlikely. ▪ "He thinks you like him." "*As if!*" [=I don't like him at all; there is no chance that I would like him]

as is *chiefly US* **:** in the present condition without any changes ▪ The car is being sold *as is*. ▪ She bought the clock at an auction *as is*.

as it is **1 :** in the present condition ▪ Leave everything exactly/just *as it is*. [=how it is, the way it is] **2 :** with the situation that exists now ▪ We have enough to do *as it is* [=*already*] without your latest orders!

as it were — used to say that a statement is true or accurate in a certain way even if it is not literally or completely true ▪ His retirement was, *as it were* [=*so to speak*], the beginning of his real career.

as of — used to indicate the time or date when something begins ▪ The new law takes effect *as of* July 1. ▪ *As of* July 1, prices will rise.

as to **1 :** [2]ABOUT ▪ I'm at a loss *as to* how to explain the error. [=I don't know how to explain the error] ▪ There is disagreement *as to* the causes of the fire. ▪ I remained uncertain *as to* the value of his suggestions. **2 :** ACCORDING TO, BY ▪ The eggs are graded *as to* size and color.

as was *Brit, informal* **:** FORMERLY, ORIGINALLY — used after a former name ▪ Myanmar—Burma *as was* [=Myanmar, which was formerly called Burma]

so as — used to indicate the purpose of something ▪ He defended himself *so as* [=*in order*] to prove his innocence. — see also [2]AS 7 (above)

[3]as *prep*

1 — used to indicate how a person or thing appears, is thought of, etc. ▪ They regarded/described the situation *as* (being) a disaster. ▪ Don't think of it *as* (being) a setback—think of it *as* (being) a challenge! ▪ Many people now regard him *as* a traitor.

2 — used to indicate the condition, role, job, etc., of someone or something ▪ Then she spoke *as* a child [=she was a child when she spoke then], but now she is speaking *as* an adult. ▪ He has a job *as* an editor. ▪ The policeman disguised himself *as* a beggar. ▪ Some people were surprised by his election *as* Governor. ▪ The critics praised his performance *as* Othello. ▪ I like her both *as* a poet and *as* a novelist. ▪ *As* a pacifist, I'm against all wars. ▪ Everyone rose ***as one***. [=everyone rose together]

ASAP *abbr* as soon as possible — used in informal contexts in both spoken and written English ▪ Please come quickly. We need you here *ASAP*. ▪ Write back *ASAP*.

as·bes·tos /æs'bɛstəs/ *noun* [*noncount*] **:** a soft gray mineral that does not burn, that was used especially as a building material in the past, and that can cause serious diseases of the lungs when people breathe its dust

as·cend /ə'sɛnd/ *verb* **-cends; -cend·ed; -cend·ing**

1 *formal* **:** to go up : to rise or move toward the sky [*no obj*] They watched their balloons slowly *ascend* into the sky. ▪ Divers must not *ascend* too rapidly/quickly to the water's surface. ▪ She believed that when she died, her soul would *ascend* to heaven. [+ *obj*] Most people are able to *ascend* [=*climb*] the mountain in less than four hours. ▪ She said goodnight and *ascended* [=*climbed*] the stairs to her room. — opposite DESCEND

2 [*no obj*] **:** to slope or lead upward ▪ Several paths *ascend* to the top of the mountain. ▪ stairs *ascending* to the attic — opposite DESCEND

3 [*no obj*] **:** to rise *to* a higher or more powerful position in a government, company, etc. ▪ John Adams *ascended to* the presidency in 1797. ▪ She worked as a clerk before *ascending to* her current position. ▪ A new national government *ascended* [=*rose*] *to* power. [=it gained control of the country]

ascend (to) the throne **:** to become a king or queen ▪ He *ascended the throne* after the death of his father. ▪ In Shakespeare's play, Macbeth kills the king and *ascends to the throne*.

in ascending order ✧ If people or things are *in ascending order*, they are arranged in a series that begins with the least or smallest and ends with the greatest or largest. ▪ The children were lined up *in ascending order* of height. ▪ Test scores are listed *in ascending order* from lowest to highest.

as·cen·dance /ə'sɛndəns/ *noun* [*noncount*] *chiefly US*

1 : the act of rising or moving up : the act of ascending ▪ Abraham Lincoln's *ascendance* [=(more commonly) *ascent, ascension*] to the presidency ▪ her *ascendance* [=(more commonly) *ascent*] to/into heaven

2 : ASCENDANCY ▪ gain/lose *ascendance*

as·cen·dan·cy *also* **as·cen·den·cy** /əˈsɛndənsi/ *noun* [*noncount*] *formal* : a position of power in which someone can control or influence other people ▪ the *ascendancy* of the government ▪ She gained (the) *ascendancy* in the debate.

[1]as·cen·dant /əˈsɛndənt/ *noun*
in the ascendant *formal* : becoming more powerful : gaining more power ▪ The President's party is no longer *in the ascendant*.

[2]ascendant *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] *formal*
1 : becoming more popular or successful ▪ the actress' *ascendant* [=*rising*] career
2 : more powerful or important than any other ▪ the *ascendant* [=*dominant*] beliefs at that time

as·cen·sion /əˈsɛnʃən/ *noun* [*singular*]
1 : the act of rising or ascending ▪ the *ascension* [=(more commonly) *ascent*] of a balloon; *especially* : the act of moving to a higher or more powerful position ▪ The play tells of his *ascension* to the presidency. ▪ the *ascension* of women in society
2 ***the Ascension*** : the Christian holiday that celebrates Jesus Christ's journey to heaven after his death

as·cent /əˈsɛnt/ *noun, pl* **-cents** [*count*]
1 : the act or process of ascending: such as **a** : the act or process of rising, moving, or climbing up — usually singular ▪ Fifty years ago, he made the first successful *ascent* of the mountain. [=he was the first person to climb the mountain] ▪ The climbers completed their *ascent* to the mountain on a rainy morning in April. ▪ The old elevator began its slow *ascent* to the top floor. ▪ The plane made a steep *ascent* to 30,000 feet. — opposite DESCENT **b** : the act or process of moving to a higher or more powerful position — usually singular ▪ the *ascent* and decline [=the rise and fall] of the world's great civilizations ▪ the new government's gradual/rapid *ascent* to power ▪ She began her *ascent* up the corporate ladder as a secretary. [=she started working as a secretary and gradually improved her career in business]
2 : a way of going up something : an upward slope, path, etc. ▪ They followed a steep *ascent* to the top of the hill.

as·cer·tain /ˌæsəˈteɪn/ *verb* **-tains; -tained; -tain·ing** [+ *obj*] *formal* : to learn or find out (something, such as information or the truth) ▪ They were unable to *ascertain* [=(more commonly) *determine*] the cause of the fire. ▪ The police are now attempting to *ascertain* his whereabouts. [=to find out where he is] ▪ Her doctors have been unable to *ascertain* [=*find out*] why she is ill. = Her doctors have been unable to *ascertain* the cause of her illness. ▪ The information can be *ascertained* by anyone with a computer.
– **as·cer·tain·able** /ˌæsəˈteɪnəbəl/ *adj* ▪ The cause of the fire was not readily/easily *ascertainable*.

as·cet·ic /əˈsɛtɪk/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] *formal* : relating to or having a strict and simple way of living that avoids physical pleasure ▪ an *ascetic* monk ▪ an *ascetic* scholar ▪ the *ascetic* [=*severe, austere*] life of monks ▪ an *ascetic* diet of rice and beans
– **ascetic** *noun, pl* **-ics** [*count*] ▪ She left the comforts of home to live the life of an *ascetic*. – **as·cet·i·cism** /əˈsɛtəˌsɪzəm/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ religious *asceticism*

ASCII /ˈæski/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a standard way of representing numbers and letters in a computer file so that they can be read by most computers ✧ The word *ASCII* comes from the initial letters of the words in the phrase *American Standard Code for Information Interchange*.

as·cot /ˈæˌskɑːt/ *noun, pl* **-cots** [*count*] *chiefly US* : a thin scarf worn by men that is folded into a loop under the chin

as·cribe /əˈskraɪb/ *verb* **-cribes; -cribed; -crib·ing**
ascribe to [*phrasal verb*] ***ascribe (something) to (something or someone)*** *formal* : to say or think that (something) is caused by, comes from, or is associated with (something or someone) ▪ They *ascribed* [=*attributed*] his illness *to* chemicals in his brain. [=they said his illness was caused by chemicals in his brain] ▪ The author *ascribes* the economy's success *to* the current government. [=the author credits the current government with the economy's success] ▪ She *ascribes* [=*assigns*] no importance *to* having lots of money. [=she does not believe that having lots of money is important] ▪ These poems are usually *ascribed to* Homer. [=most people believe that these poems were written by Homer] ▪ qualities that are usually *ascribed to* men [=qualities that many people think are typical of men]

asep·tic /eɪˈsɛptɪk/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] *medical* : free from germs that cause disease ▪ an *aseptic* wound

asex·u·al /eɪˈsɛkʃəwəl/ *adj*
1 : not having or including sex ▪ They had a completely *asexual* relationship.
2 *technical* : of or relating to a kind of reproduction that does not involve the combining of male and female cells ▪ *asexual* plants/organisms ▪ *asexual* reproduction
– **asex·u·al·ly** /eɪˈsɛkʃəwəli/ *adv* ▪ plants that reproduce *asexually*

[1]ash /ˈæʃ/ *noun, pl* **ash·es**
1 : the soft gray powder that remains after something (such as a cigarette or wood) has been completely burned and destroyed by fire [*noncount*] The town lay under a thick layer/blanket of *ash*. ▪ clouds of hot volcanic *ash* [*count*] The village was covered in *ashes*. ▪ cigarette *ashes*
2 ***ashes*** [*plural*] : the burned parts that remain when something is destroyed ▪ The city was reduced to *ashes* by the fire. = The city was burned to *ashes*. — often used figuratively ▪ Their happiness turned to *ashes*. [=their happiness was destroyed] ▪ The nation slowly rose from the *ashes* of war. = It slowly rose out of the *ashes* and began to rebuild itself. ▪ We sifted through the *ashes* of our ruined lives.
3 ***ashes*** [*plural*] : the remains of a dead human body after it has been burned or cremated ▪ the *ashes* of the dead ▪ She kept her dead mother's *ashes* in a jar above the fireplace. ▪ He asked to have his *ashes* scattered along the river.
sackcloth and ashes see SACKCLOTH
– compare [2]ASH

[2]ash *noun, pl* **ashes**
1 [*count*] : a type of tree that grows in northern parts of the world and that has thin gray bark and hard wood
2 [*noncount*] : the hard wood of an ash tree ▪ baseball bats made of *ash*
– compare [1]ASH

ashamed /əˈʃeɪmd/ *adj, not used before a noun* [*more ~; most ~*]
1 : feeling shame or guilt ▪ She was *ashamed* that she hit her brother. = She felt *ashamed* for/about hitting her brother. ▪ You ought to be *ashamed*! — often + *of* ▪ You ought to be *ashamed of* yourself! ▪ He was deeply *ashamed of* his behavior at the company party. ▪ I'm not *ashamed of* what I did. There's nothing to be *ashamed of*. ▪ I can't believe that you behaved so rudely. I'm *ashamed of* you!
2 : not wanting *to do* something because of shame or embarrassment ▪ I can't believe that you behaved so rudely. I'm *ashamed to be seen* with you! ▪ We were too *ashamed to go* back to school. [=we didn't go back to school because we were too embarrassed] ▪ I'm *ashamed* [=*embarrassed*] *to admit* it, but I still don't know how to ride a bicycle. = I'm *ashamed to say* I still don't know how to ride a bicycle.

ash–blond *or* **ash–blonde** /ˈæʃˈblɑːnd/ *adj* : pale blond or grayish blond ▪ *ash-blond* hair

ash can *noun, pl* **~ cans** [*count*] *US, old-fashioned* : GARBAGE CAN

ash·en /ˈæʃən/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : having a pale light gray color because of sickness, fear, etc. ▪ His skin became *ashen*. ▪ She was *ashen* with fear.

ashore /əˈʃoɚ/ *adv* : on or to the shore of an ocean, sea, lake, or river ▪ We docked our boat and went *ashore* to visit the island. ▪ the seashells that wash *ashore* after a storm

ash·ram /ˈɑːʃrəm/ *noun, pl* **-rams** [*count*] : a place where a person or a group of people go to live separately from the rest of society and practice the Hindu religion

ash·tray /ˈæʃˌtreɪ/ *noun, pl* **-trays** [*count*] : a small dish or other small container that is used for throwing away used cigarettes and cigars and their ashes

Ash Wednesday *noun* [*noncount*] : the first day of the Christian holy period of Lent

[1]Asian /ˈeɪʒən/ *noun, pl* **Asians** [*count*] : a person born, raised, or living in Asia : a person whose family is from Asia ▪ There are many *Asians* living in South America.

> ***usage*** In U.S. English, *Asian* refers usually to a person from the countries of eastern Asia, such as China, Korea, and Japan. In British English, *Asian* often refers to a person from the countries of western Asia, such as India and Pakistan.

[2]Asian *adj* : of or relating to Asia or its people ▪ *Asian* cities/populations/immigrants ▪ *Asian* culture/philosophy/cooking

Asian–Amer·i·can /ˈeɪʒənəˈmerəkən/ *noun, pl* **-cans** [*count*] : an American who was born in Asia or whose family is from Asia
– **Asian–American** *adj* ▪ Most of the people who live in this neighborhood are *Asian-American*.

Asi•at•ic /ˌeɪʒi'ætɪk/ *adj, always used before a noun* : of or relating to Asia ▪ *Asiatic* plants and animals ▪ *Asiatic* countries ▪ the *Asiatic* fleet of the U.S. Navy [=the ships of the U.S. Navy that are in Asia] ✧ *Asiatic* should not be used to describe people.

[1]aside /ə'saɪd/ *adv*

1 : to or toward the side ▪ He stepped *aside* and let her pass. ▪ She drew *aside* the curtains. = She drew the curtains *aside*. ▪ He threw/tossed his coat *aside*. ▪ Please stand *aside*. ▪ She laid/set the book *aside*. ▪ He elbowed people *aside* as he moved through the crowd. ▪ He took/drew her *aside* to speak to her privately. ▪ Someone grabbed him and pulled/pushed him *aside*. — often used figuratively ▪ Their objections were swept/brushed *aside*. [=were quickly dismissed or disregarded] ▪ The old methods have been cast/thrown *aside* [=have been abandoned] in favor of new ones. ▪ Leaving/Putting *aside* the question of money for the moment, we need to come up with a workable schedule.

2 — used with *put* or *set* to describe something that is being kept or saved for a future use ▪ She's been *setting/putting* money *aside* [=has been saving money] for school. ▪ The government has *set aside* a thousand acres for use as a park.

3 — used to say that something is not included in a statement that follows ▪ Dangerous appearances *aside*, these animals are really very gentle and friendly. [=these animals are friendly despite their dangerous appearances] ▪ Such minor problems *aside* [=except for such minor problems], the movie is a very entertaining thriller.

aside from *chiefly US* **1** : not including (something) : with the exception of (something) ▪ *Aside from* [=*apart from, except for*] a few pieces of bread, the food is gone. ▪ The movie has been praised by most people, *aside from* a few critics who have called its happy ending trite and predictable. **2** : in addition to (something) : BESIDES ▪ *Aside from* being well written, the book is also beautifully illustrated

[2]aside *noun, pl* **asides** [*count*]

1 : a comment spoken by a character in a play that is heard by the audience but is supposedly not heard by other characters on stage

2 : a comment that is spoken quietly to someone so that it cannot be heard by other people who are present ▪ She made a joke about the food in a muttered/whispered *aside* to her husband.

3 : a comment or discussion that does not relate directly to the main subject being discussed ▪ The book includes several lengthy *asides* about the personal lives of scientists involved in the project. ▪ In his speech he mentioned her contributions almost as an *aside*, despite the fact that she was the one who came up with the idea originally.

as•i•nine /'æsəˌnaɪn/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] *formal* : very stupid and silly ▪ That is the most *asinine* [=*foolish, ridiculous*] joke I've ever heard. ▪ a completely *asinine* question

ask /'æsk, *Brit* 'ɑːsk/ *verb* **asks; asked; ask•ing**

1 : to say or write something to someone as a way of gaining information : to request an answer to a question [+ *obj*] I need to *ask* a question. ▪ I need to *ask* you a question. = (less commonly) I need to *ask* a question of you. ▪ Are there any questions you would like to *ask* (me)? ▪ Did you *ask* her yet? ▪ "Have you seen the movie yet?" he *asked*. ▪ a list of frequently *asked* questions — often + *about* ▪ We always *ask* him *about* his mother. — often + *if* or *whether* ▪ He *asked* (them) *if* they had seen the movie. ▪ She *asked* (me) *if* I was worried. ▪ They were *asked whether* they would like to buy the car. — often + *why, what*, etc. ▪ You should *ask* (him) *why* he didn't come. ▪ He always *asks* (her) *what* she thinks. ▪ May I *ask what* time it is? ▪ It's not polite to *ask how* much a person weighs. [*no obj*] "If you don't mind me/my *asking*, how old are you?" "I'm 35 years old. Why do you *ask*?" ▪ Please don't *ask* again. ▪ "Do they have any soda?" "I don't know. I'll go *ask*." — often + *about* ▪ I *asked about* her plans for the future. ▪ The police were here *asking about* you.

2 : to tell someone in the form of a question that you want to be given something or that you want something to happen : to request something [*no obj*] If you want something to drink, just *ask*. [=just tell me that you want something to drink] ▪ I would have given it to him, but he never *asked*. — often + *for* ▪ Let's stop and *ask for* directions. ▪ I'll have to *ask for* permission to leave. ▪ She *asked for* their forgiveness/help. ▪ She ate all of her food and *asked for* more. ▪ His lawyers are *asking for* the case to be dismissed. [+ *obj*] We had to stop and *ask* directions. ▪ May I *ask* the time? ▪ Did you *ask* permission to leave? ▪ She *asked* their forgiveness. — often + *for* ▪ We had to *ask* someone *for* directions. ▪ I *asked* her *for* permission. ▪ She *asked* them *for* their forgiveness. — often + *if* or *whether* ▪ He *asked if* he could use my telephone. ▪ They *asked* us *whether* we might stay an extra day. — often + *that* ▪ She *asked that* I not say anything about it. ▪ His lawyers are *asking that* the case be dismissed. — often followed by *to* + *verb* ▪ She *asked* (for permission) *to borrow* her father's car for the day. ▪ I *asked* (for permission) *to leave* work early. ▪ You should *ask* your teacher *to help* you. ▪ Unhappy with the service, he *asked to see* the manager. ▪ He *asked* me *to marry* him. ▪ I'm sorry, but I need to *ask* you *to leave*. ▪ She *asked* me not *to say* anything about it to anyone. ▪ I wanted to say something about it, but she *asked* me not *to*.

3 [+ *obj*] : to invite (someone) to go somewhere or do something ▪ He's *asking* just a few friends to the party. ▪ I *asked* him to lunch. ▪ They *asked* me over for dinner. ✧ To ***ask someone out*** is to ask someone to go on a date with you. ▪ I *asked her out* (on a date), but she turned me down.

4 [+ *obj*] **a** : to believe that you should receive (something) from someone ▪ She doesn't *ask* [=*expect, require*] a lot. She *asks* very little in return for her hard work. — often + *of* ▪ The school *asks* much *of* its students. [=the school expects its students to do a lot] ▪ He says that people *ask* too little *of* their politicians. ▪ He was ready to go to war, should the government *ask* it *of* him. [=should the government ask him to go to war] **b** : to set (a specific amount of money) as a price ▪ The dealer originally *asked* [=*wanted*] $20,000 for the car, but he sold it to me for $18,000. ▪ They're asking [=*charging*] $100 or more per concert ticket. — see also ASKING PRICE

ask after [*phrasal verb*] ***ask after (someone or something)*** : to ask about (someone or something) ▪ He *asked after* my wife's health. ▪ He greeted us warmly and *asked after* our families. [=he asked how our families were]

ask around [*phrasal verb*] : to ask many people to tell you information about someone or something ▪ Maybe you should *ask around* to find out more about this guy. ▪ We usually *ask around* before trying a new restaurant.

ask for [*phrasal verb*] **1** ***ask for (someone)*** : to request to see or talk to (someone) ▪ Unhappy with the service, he *asked for* the store manager. ▪ There's someone on the phone *asking for* you. **2** ***ask for it*** *informal* : to behave in a way that makes someone want to hurt or punish you ▪ You're *asking for it*, kid! If you keep misbehaving, you're going to get punished. ▪ All right. You *asked for it*! **3** ***ask for trouble*** *informal* : to behave in a way that is likely to result in trouble ▪ If you invest your money without doing careful research, you're just *asking for trouble*. — see also *ask for the moon* at [1]MOON

ask yourself ✧ To *ask yourself* something is to think about the true answer to a question. ▪ *Ask yourself* what you would do in that situation. ▪ Before buying an expensive item, he needs to *ask himself* if/whether he can afford it.

don't ask *informal* — used to say that something is too strange, embarrassing, or complicated to explain ▪ "She married and divorced a man in the same day? How is that possible?" "*Don't ask*."

don't ask me *informal* — used to say that you do not know the answer to a question ▪ "Why are they having a company meeting?" "*Don't ask me*. I only work here." ▪ *Don't ask me* why they're changing the system. I think it's fine the way it is.

for the asking ✧ If something is yours *for the asking*, you can have it if you want it or ask for it. ▪ This job is hers *for the asking*. [=she can have the job if she wants it] ▪ Our services are available/free *for the asking*. [=our services are available/free for anyone who wants them]

I ask you ✧ People use the phrase *I ask you* before or after a question when they want someone to agree or sympathize with them. ▪ (Now) *I ask you*, is that fair? [=I don't think it's fair; do you?] ▪ Look at that hat! Who would wear such a thing, *I ask you*?

if you ask me *informal* : in my opinion ▪ She looks ridiculous in that hat, *if you ask me*.

who asked you? *informal + impolite* — used as a response when someone gives an opinion that is not wanted ▪ "I think you should break up with that guy." "*Who asked you*?" [=*mind your own business*; I don't want to hear your opinion]

askance /ə'skæns/ *adv* : in a way that shows a lack of trust or approval ▪ Most scientists ***looked askance at*** the new discovery. [=most scientists were doubtful about the new discovery] ▪ Several people *looked at him askance* when he walked into the room. = Several people ***eyed him askance*** when he walked into the room.

askew /ə'skju:/ *adv* [*more ~; most ~*] : not straight : at an angle ▪ The picture hung *askew* [=*crookedly*] on the wall.
– **askew** *adj, not used before a noun* ▪ His tie is slightly *askew* [=*crooked*] in this picture.

asking price *noun* [*singular*] : the price that is asked for by a person who is selling something ▪ The original *asking price* for/of the car was $20,000, but I was eventually able to buy it for $18,000. — compare SELLING PRICE

asleep /ə'sli:p/ *adj, not used before a noun*
1 : in a state of sleep : sleeping ▪ "Are you *asleep*?" "No, I'm awake." ▪ He tries to clean up the house while the kids are *asleep*. ▪ The cats are *asleep* on the floor. ▪ She was still *asleep* at noon. ✧ When people are ***fast asleep*** or ***sound asleep***, they are sleeping very deeply. ▪ It was late at night and everyone was *fast asleep*. ▪ One moment she was *sound asleep*, the next she was wide awake! ✧ If you are ***half asleep***, you are very tired and not completely awake. ▪ We were still *half asleep* when we went to school the next morning.
2 : lacking any feeling ✧ If a part of your body (such as a foot or leg) is *asleep*, it is not able to feel anything for a brief time, usually because you have kept it in an awkward position for too long. ▪ My foot's *asleep*.
fall asleep : to begin sleeping ▪ She *fell asleep* during the movie. ▪ I woke up and I couldn't *fall* back *asleep*. [=I couldn't go to sleep again]

asp /'æsp/ *noun, pl* **asps** [*count*] : a small poisonous snake from Egypt

as•par•a•gus /ə'sperəgəs/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a plant with long green stems and tiny leaves at one end that is cooked and eaten as a vegetable — see color picture on page C4

as•pect /'æˌspɛkt/ *noun, pl* **-pects**
1 [*count*] : a part of something ▪ Our proposal differs from theirs in one important *aspect*. [=*respect*] — usually + *of* ▪ Their religion affects almost/nearly/virtually every *aspect* [=*facet*] *of* their lives. ▪ Eating healthy foods is only/just one *aspect* [=*part*] *of* a healthy lifestyle. ▪ Nobody has discussed the most important *aspect of* the problem. ▪ Computers now influence all *aspects of* American life.
2 *formal* : the way a person, place, or thing appears [*singular*] The old house took on a dark and lonely *aspect* [=*appearance*] at night. [*noncount*] Their gods are primarily human in *aspect*. [=they look like humans]
3 [*singular*] *formal* : the direction that something (such as a room or building) faces or points towards ▪ The house has a southern *aspect*. [=a southern exposure; the front of the house faces the south] — sometimes used figuratively ▪ We studied the situation from every *aspect*. [=*angle*]
4 *grammar* : the characteristic of a verb that expresses the way an action happens ✧ A verb's *aspect* shows whether an action happens one time and stops quickly, happens repeatedly, or happens continuously. [*count*] The *aspect* of "sit" in "please sit down now" is different from the *aspect* of "sitting" in "I was sitting at my desk." [*noncount*] two verb forms differing in *aspect*

aspect ratio *noun, pl* **~ ratios** [*count*] *technical* : a number that compares the width and height of a movie or television picture

as•pen /'æspən/ *noun, pl* **-pens** [*count*] : a kind of tree whose leaves move easily when the wind blows

as•per•i•ty /ə'sperəti/ *noun* [*noncount*] *formal* : harshness of behavior or speech that expresses bitterness or anger ▪ He spoke about his ex-wife with *asperity*. [=*acrimony*]

as•per•sions /ə'spəʒənz/ *noun*
cast aspersions *formal* : to say critical things about (someone or someone's character) : to criticize (someone) harshly or unfairly ▪ He tried to discuss his political opponents respectfully, without *casting aspersions*. — usually + *on* ▪ He tried to avoid *casting aspersions on* (the motives/integrity of) his political opponents.

as•phalt /'æsˌfɑ:lt/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a black substance that is used for making roads

as•phyx•ia /æs'fɪksijə/ *noun* [*noncount*] *medical* : the state of not being able to breathe ▪ The cause of death was *asphyxia*.

as•phyx•i•ate /æs'fɪksiˌeɪt/ *verb* **-ates**; **-at•ed**; **-at•ing** [+ *obj*] : to cause (someone) to stop breathing and often to become unconscious and die ▪ The murder victim was *asphyxiated*.
– **as•phyx•i•a•tion** /æsˌfɪksi'eɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ The murder victim died of *asphyxiation*.

as•pic /'æspɪk/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a clear jelly that is usually served with cold meat or fish ▪ a serving of chicken in *aspic*

as•pi•rant /'æspərənt/ *noun, pl* **-rants** [*count*] *formal* : a person who tries to become something : a person who aspires to do or to be something ▪ a presidential *aspirant* = an *aspirant* to the presidency [=someone who wants to become president]

[1]as•pi•rate /'æspəˌreɪt/ *verb* **-rates**; **-rat•ed**; **-rat•ing** [+ *obj*]
1 *linguistics* : to pronounce (a letter or word) with the sound of a breath or the letter "h" ▪ The letter "h" in "house" is *aspirated*, but the "h" in "hour" is not.
2 *medical* : to remove (liquid) from a person's body ▪ The doctor *aspirated* fluid from the cyst. = The doctor *aspirated* the cyst.
3 *medical* : to breathe (liquid, food, etc.) into your lungs ▪ She began coughing when she *aspirated* some orange juice.

[2]as•pi•rate /'æspərət/ *noun, pl* **-ates** [*count*] *linguistics* : the sound of the letter "h" ▪ The word "hour" is not pronounced with an *aspirate*.

as•pi•ra•tion /ˌæspə'reɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions**
1 [*count*] : something that a person wants very much to achieve ▪ I've never had any *aspiration* to become famous. [=I've never wanted to become famous] — usually plural ▪ What are your *aspirations* for the future? [=what do you want to accomplish in the future?] ▪ the different *aspirations* of the group's members ▪ She has political *aspirations*. [=she wants/aspires to be a politician] ▪ romantic/social/literary *aspirations*
2 [*noncount*] : the act of aspirating something: such as **a** *linguistics* : the act of pronouncing the sound of a breath or the letter "h" ▪ the *aspiration* of the letter "h" in "a house" **b** *medical* : the act of removing liquid from a person's body ▪ the *aspiration* of stomach fluids **c** *medical* : the act of breathing something into the lungs ▪ problems caused by the *aspiration* of fluids into the patient's lungs
– **as•pi•ra•tion•al** /ˌæspə'reɪʃənəl/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] *Brit* ▪ *aspirational* [=*ambitious*] people ▪ *aspirational* brands/products [=brands/products that appeal to people who want to raise their social status] – **as•pi•ra•tion•al•ly** *adv*

as•pire /ə'spajə/ *verb* **-pires**; **-pired**; **-pir•ing** [*no obj*] : to want to have or achieve something (such as a particular career or level of success) — often + *to* ▪ Both young men *aspire to* careers in medicine. [=both young men want to have careers in medicine] ▪ She *aspires to* a more active role in her government. ▪ people who *aspire to* home ownership [=people who want to own their own homes] — often followed by *to* + *verb* ▪ He says he never *aspired to become* famous. ▪ little girls who *aspire to play* professional basketball
– **aspiring** *adj* ▪ an *aspiring* actor [=a person who wants to be an actor] ▪ an *aspiring* young writer

as•pi•rin /'æspərən/ *noun, pl* **aspirin** *or* **as•pi•rins** : a medicine that reduces pain and fever [*noncount*] *Aspirin* is effective in controlling headaches. ▪ an *aspirin* pill [*count*] I had a headache so I took a couple of *aspirins*/*aspirin*. [=a couple of aspirin pills]

[1]ass /'æs/ *noun, pl* **ass•es** [*count*]
1 *old-fashioned* : a donkey
2 *informal + impolite* : a foolish, stupid, or stubborn person ▪ You can be such an *ass* sometimes! ▪ They act like a couple of pompous/pretentious *asses*. ▪ I ***made an ass of myself*** at the party. [=I behaved very foolishly at the party]
– compare [2]ASS

[2]ass *noun, pl* **asses**
1 [*count*] *chiefly US, informal + impolite* **a** : the part of the body above the legs that is used for sitting : BUTTOCKS ▪ She slipped and fell flat on her *ass*. [=(*Brit*) *arse*] **b** — used in various phrases ▪ I've got to thank the soldiers who ***protected my ass*** [=*protected my life/hide/skin*] during the war. ▪ She ***saved your ass***. [=she saved you] ▪ I wish he'd admit to his mistakes instead of always trying to ***cover his ass***. [=to keep from being blamed or punished] ▪ ***Get your ass back here***! [=come back here] ▪ We don't have much time so you'd better ***move your ass***! = You'd better ***get your ass in gear***! [=you'd better start going/moving faster] ▪ "Are you sure you're going to win?" "***You (can) bet your ass*** [=you can be very certain] I'm going to win!" ▪ This comedian will make you laugh ***your asses off***. [=will make you laugh very hard] ▪ I work *my ass off* everyday to try to make ends meet. ▪ Work, ***my ass!*** [=what nonsense] You just sit in front of the TV all day. ▪ You've been (sitting) ***on your ass*** in front of the TV all day. ▪ It's time (for you) to ***get off your ass*** and do some work! ▪ She's always ***on my ass*** about getting a better job.

A

[=she's always telling me that I should get a better job] ▪ That gray truck has been *on our ass* [=has been following us very/too closely] for the last mile. ▪ Why can't you ***get off his ass***?! [=stop criticizing him] He's doing the best he can! — see also *haul ass* at ¹HAUL, *kick someone's ass* at ¹KICK, *kiss (my/someone's) ass* at ¹KISS

2 [*noncount*] *US, offensive* **a** : sexual intercourse ▪ looking to get some *ass* **b** — used in the phrase ***piece of ass*** to refer to a person (especially a woman) in a sexual way ▪ He described her as "a nice *piece of ass*." ✧ These uses of *ass* are very offensive and should be avoided.

– compare ¹ASS

as·sail /ə'seɪl/ *verb* **-sails**; **-sailed**; **-sail·ing** [+ *obj*] : to attack or criticize (someone or something) in a violent or angry way ▪ The movie was *assailed* by critics. ▪ politicians *assailed* by the media — often used figuratively ▪ A horrible odor *assailed* our noses. [=we smelled a horrible odor] ▪ We were *assailed* by doubts [=we were very doubtful] about the decision we'd made. ▪ *assailed* by fears

as·sail·ant /ə'seɪlənt/ *noun, pl* **-ants** [*count*] *formal* : a person who attacks someone violently ▪ She said that her *assailant* [=the person who attacked her] was wearing a mask.

as·sas·sin /ə'sæsn̩/ *noun, pl* **-sins** [*count*] : a person who kills someone (such as a famous or important person) usually for political reasons or for money : a person who assassinates someone ▪ He's a hired *assassin*. [=someone hired to kill someone] ▪ the President's would-be *assassin* [=the person who tried to kill the President] ▪ John Wilkes Booth was the *assassin* of Abraham Lincoln.

as·sas·si·nate /ə'sæsəˌneɪt/ *verb* **-nates**; **-nat·ed**; **-nating** [+ *obj*] : to kill (someone, such as a famous or important person) usually for political reasons ▪ They discovered a secret plot/plan to *assassinate* the governor. ▪ President John F. Kennedy was *assassinated* in 1963.

– **as·sas·si·na·tion** /əˌsæsə'neɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** [*count*] an attempted *assassination* of the President [*noncount*] a leader whose life was tragically cut short by *assassination*

¹as·sault /ə'sɑ:lt/ *noun, pl* **-saults**

1 a [*noncount*] *law* : the crime of trying or threatening to hurt someone physically ▪ He was accused of *assault*. = He was charged with *assault*. = *Assault* charges were brought against him. ▪ She was wanted (by the police) for *assault* with a deadly weapon. ▪ He was found guilty of ***sexual assault*** [=the crime of touching someone in an unwanted sexual way] — see also INDECENT ASSAULT **b** [*count*] : a violent physical attack ▪ She was injured in a brutal *assault*.

2 [*count*] : a military attack ▪ They launched several air *assaults* [=attacks using airplanes] against the enemy. ▪ They got ready for an enemy *assault*. [=an attack by the enemy] — often + *on* ▪ The enemy has launched an *assault on* the city. — often used figuratively ▪ They saw the change as an *assault on* the values of their society. ▪ They launched a fierce legal *assault* against the company. ▪ The government is attempting an all-out/full-scale *assault on* the use of drugs.

under assault : being attacked or criticized ▪ The city is *under assault* from enemy troops. ▪ He came *under assault* for his unusual beliefs. [=he was severely criticized for his unusual beliefs] ▪ Their personal freedoms are (coming) *under assault* by the government.

²assault *verb* **-saults**; **-sault·ed**; **-sault·ing** [+ *obj*] : to violently attack (someone or something) ▪ He was arrested for *assaulting* a police officer. ▪ She verbally *assaulted* one of her coworkers. ▪ He had been sexually *assaulted* [=touched or hurt in a sexual way] as a young boy. ▪ Enemy forces *assaulted* the city. — sometimes used figuratively ▪ A terrible noise *assaulted* our senses. [=we heard a terrible noise]

assault and battery *noun* [*noncount*] *law* : the crime of threatening and physically hitting or attacking someone

assault course *noun, pl* ~ **courses** [*count*] *Brit* : OBSTACLE COURSE

assault rifle *noun, pl* ~ **rifles** [*count*] : a gun that can shoot many bullets quickly and that is designed for use by the military — called also *assault weapon*; see picture at GUN

as·say /æ'seɪ/ *verb* **-says**; **-sayed**; **-say·ing** [+ *obj*] *technical* : to test something (such as a metal or drug) to find out what it contains ▪ They *assayed* the gold to determine its purity.

– **as·say** /'æˌseɪ/ *noun, pl* **-says** [*count*] ▪ a gold *assay*

as·sem·blage /ə'sɛmblɪʤ/ *noun, pl* **-blag·es** [*count*] *formal* : a group of people or things ▪ an *assemblage* [=*group*] of parents and teachers ▪ an *assemblage* [=*set*] of tools

as·sem·ble /ə'sɛmbəl/ *verb* **-sem·bles**; **-sem·bled**; **-sem·bling**

1 [+ *obj*] : to collect (things) or gather (people) into one place or group ▪ We'll need to *assemble* a list of songs for the concert. ▪ She *assembled* all of her old photos into three albums. ▪ Hundreds of notes and letters were *assembled* into a book. ▪ A team of scientists was *assembled* to study the problem.

2 [*no obj*] : to meet together in one place ▪ The U.S. Constitution gives people the right to *assemble* peacefully. ▪ A crowd had *assembled* in front of the courthouse during the trial. ▪ After dinner, the men would *assemble* in the living room to watch the game on TV. ▪ The club *assembles* once a month to discuss upcoming activities.

3 [+ *obj*] : to connect or put together the parts of (something, such as a toy or machine) ▪ Their father helped them *assemble* their new bicycles in the garage. ▪ The cars are *assembled* on an assembly line.

as·sem·bly /ə'sɛmbli/ *noun, pl* **-blies**

1 [*noncount*] : the act of connecting together the parts of something (such as a machine) : the act of assembling something ▪ The parts are made in this factory and then shipped to another country for *assembly*. ▪ No *assembly* required. [=this product is already put together]

2 [*count*] : a group of people who make and change laws for a government or organization ▪ the organization's general *assembly* ▪ elected legislative *assemblies* ▪ the New York State *Assembly* ▪ the French National *Assembly*

3 [*count*] **a** : a group of people who have gathered together ▪ an *assembly* of armed men **b** : a meeting of all the teachers and students of a school ▪ School *assemblies* were usually held in the cafeteria.

4 [*noncount*] : the act of gathering together to talk about issues ▪ Freedom of speech and freedom of *assembly* are protected by the U.S. Constitution.

assembly line *noun, pl* ~ **lines** [*count*] : PRODUCTION LINE

as·sem·bly·man /ə'sɛmblimən/ *noun, pl* **-men** /-mən/ [*count*] : a person (especially a man) who is a member of a legislative assembly

as·sem·bly·wo·man /ə'sɛmbliˌwʊmən/ *noun, pl* **-women** /-ˌwɪmən/ [*count*] : a woman who is a member of a legislative assembly

as·sent /ə'sɛnt/ *verb* **-sents**; **-sent·ed**; **-sent·ing** [*no obj*] *formal* : to agree to or approve of something (such as an idea or suggestion) especially after carefully thinking about it ▪ The general proposed a detailed plan and the President *assented*. — often + *to* ▪ She refused to *assent to* [=*agree to*] the new rules.

– **assent** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ A contract requires the *assent* [=*agreement, approval*] of both parties. ▪ The leaders gave their *assent* [=*approval*] to the peace proposal.

as·sert /ə'sɚt/ *verb* **-serts**; **-sert·ed**; **-sert·ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to state (something) in a strong and definite way ▪ "Poverty is the city's most serious problem," the authors *assert*. = The authors *assert* that poverty is the city's most serious problem. ▪ He *asserted* that there were spies in the government. ▪ Despite the evidence against him, he has continued to *assert* his innocence. [=has continued to say that he is innocent]

2 : to demand that other people accept or respect (something) ▪ She *asserted* her independence from her parents by getting her own apartment. ▪ The boss was reluctant to *assert* his authority over his employees.

assert yourself **1** *of a person* : to speak or act in a strong and definite way ▪ If you want people to listen to your opinions, you'll need to learn how to *assert yourself*. ▪ The coach wants the players to *assert themselves* [=play more aggressively] on the field. **2** *of a thing* : to become apparent : to start to be clearly seen or known ▪ Doubts about the value of the work began to *assert themselves*.

– **as·ser·tion** /ə'sɚʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** [*count*] I don't always agree with his *assertions* [=his strong statements] about politics. ▪ an *assertion* of innocence [*noncount*] Getting her own apartment was the first step in the *assertion* of her independence.

synonyms ASSERT, DECLARE, AFFIRM, and AVOW mean to say something in a way that shows you feel strongly about it, usually when you expect someone to disagree or challenge you. ASSERT suggests that you are confident about what you are saying and that you do not need proof or evidence. ▪ The group *asserts* that the smoking ban will negatively affect restaurant and bar owners. DECLARE is

used when you are saying something in a public or open way. ▪ She has *declared* her support for the candidate. AFFIRM is a formal word which suggests that you believe something because of evidence, experience, or faith. ▪ He again *affirmed* his belief in the existence of an afterlife. AVOW is also formal and emphasizes that you are being honest or sincere. ▪ Both *avowed* that they had nothing to do with the crime.

as•sert•ive /ə'sɚtɪv/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : confident in behavior or style ▪ an *assertive* attitude ▪ Their daughter is an *assertive* little girl. ▪ The country has adopted a more *assertive* [=*aggressive*] foreign policy. ▪ If you want people to listen to your opinions, you'll need to learn to be more *assertive*. — sometimes used figuratively ▪ a sauce with an *assertive* flavor [=a strong flavor] — see also SELF-ASSERTIVE
– **as•sert•ive•ly** *adv* ▪ He walked *assertively* [=*confidently*] onto the stage. – **as•sert•ive•ness** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the country's new *assertiveness* [=*aggressiveness*] in foreign policy ▪ She is getting/undergoing ***assertiveness training***. [=training that teaches people to act more confidently]

as•sess /ə'sɛs/ *verb* **-sess•es**; **-sessed**; **-sess•ing** [+ *obj*]
1 : to make a judgment about (something) ▪ The school will *assess* [=*evaluate*] the students' progress each year. ▪ After the hurricane, officials *assessed* the town's need for aid. ▪ *assess* a problem ▪ We need to *assess* whether or not the system is working. ▪ *assess* the situation/danger/impact/severity
2 : to officially say what the amount, value, or rate of (something) is ▪ Damage to the boat was *assessed* at $5,000. ▪ Their house is *assessed* [=*appraised, valued*] at $163,000.
3 a : to tax or charge (someone or something) : to require (a person, business, etc.) to pay a particular amount of money ▪ The company was *assessed* $12 million in fines for polluting the river. **b** : to require a person, business, etc., to pay (a tax, fee, fine, etc.) ▪ The bank *assesses* [=(more commonly) *charges, imposes*] a fee for replacing lost credit cards.
4 *US, sports* : to give (a player or team) a penalty during a game ▪ He was *assessed* five fouls during the game.

as•sess•ment /ə'sɛsmənt/ *noun, pl* **-ments** *formal*
1 a : the act of making a judgment about something : the act of assessing something [*count*] The book is a careful *assessment* [=*appraisal, evaluation*] of the president's achievements. ▪ The school uses a variety of tests for its annual student *assessments*. [=*evaluations*] [*noncount*] It's a difficult problem that requires careful *assessment*. **b** [*count*] : an idea or opinion about something ▪ I don't agree with his *assessment* of the problem.
2 [*count*] : an amount that a person is officially required to pay especially as a tax ▪ The owners claimed the tax *assessment* on their house was too high.

as•ses•sor /ə'sɛsɚ/ *noun, pl* **-sors** [*count*]
1 : a person whose job is to officially say how much something (such as a property) is worth especially so that it can be taxed according to that value ▪ a tax *assessor*
2 *law* : a person who knows a lot about a particular subject and whose job is to give advice about that subject to a judge or other court official
3 : a person whose job is to officially say how well someone has done on a test, in a competition, etc.

as•set /'æˌsɛt/ *noun, pl* **-sets** [*count*]
1 : a valuable person or thing ▪ Good looks can be an *asset* [=*advantage*] in an acting career. ▪ The state's natural *assets* include mountains and beautiful lakes. — often + *to* ▪ Good looks can be an *asset to* an actor. ▪ She is a great *asset to* the team. [=she's a valuable member of the team]
2 : something that is owned by a person, company, etc. — usually plural ▪ The company had to sell some of its *assets* to avoid bankruptcy. ▪ a bank with billions of dollars in *assets* ▪ business *assets* and liabilities ▪ They bought the company and stripped it of its *assets*. [=they sold the property owned by the company]

as•set–strip•ping /'æˌsɛt'strɪpɪŋ/ *noun* [*noncount*] *chiefly Brit* : the practice of buying a company that is not successful at a low price and then selling its property (such as buildings or land) to make a profit

ass•hole /'æsˌhoʊl/ *noun, pl* **-holes** [*count*] *US, informal* + *offensive*
1 : ANUS
2 : a very stupid or annoying person ▪ Her boyfriend is a real *asshole*. [=(*Brit*) *arsehole*]

as•sid•u•ous /ə'sɪʤəwəs/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] *formal* : showing great care, attention, and effort ▪ They were *assiduous* in their search for all the latest facts and figures. ▪ The project required some *assiduous* planning. ▪ *assiduous* [=*diligent*] students
– **as•si•du•ity** /ˌæsə'du:wəti, *Brit* ˌæsə'dju:wəti/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the *assiduity* [=*diligence*] of the students – **as•sid•u•ous•ly** *adv* ▪ He worked *assiduously* [=*diligently*] to improve his grades. – **as•sid•u•ous•ness** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the *assiduousness* [=*diligence*] of the students

as•sign /ə'saɪn/ *verb* **-signs**; **-signed**; **-sign•ing** [+ *obj*]
1 : to give someone a particular job or duty : to require someone to do a particular task ▪ They *assigned* me the job of cleaning the equipment. = They *assigned* the job of cleaning the equipment to me. = They *assigned* me to clean the equipment. ▪ The teacher *assigned* us 50 math problems for homework! ▪ Students will be *assigned* five books to read and must choose two additional books (to read).
2 : to send (someone) *to* a particular group or place as part of a job ▪ She was *assigned to* the embassy in India. ▪ The new teacher was *assigned to* the science laboratory. ▪ *assigned to* a platoon/squadron
3 : to give out something : to provide someone with something ▪ Parts in the play were *assigned* [=*given*] to each student. ▪ They *assigned* me a secretary. = They *assigned* a secretary to me. [=they provided me with a secretary] ▪ A section of the field was *assigned* [=*set aside*] for parking. ▪ The plane landed at its *assigned* gate. ▪ our *assigned* positions/seats
4 : to say that someone has (something, such as blame or responsibility) ▪ He believes that they have *assigned* blame/responsibility to the wrong people.
5 : to give a particular value, identity, etc., to something ▪ The computer program will *assign* a number to each image.
6 *law* : to officially give (property or a legal right) to someone else ▪ She *assigned* her share of the estate to her brother.
– **as•sign•able** /ə'saɪnəbəl/ *adj, chiefly law* ▪ an *assignable* interest in the estate – **as•sign•or** /ˌæsə'noɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ors** [*count*] *law* ▪ the property of the *assignor*

as•sig•na•tion /ˌæsɪg'neɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** [*count*] *formal* : a meeting between lovers ▪ a secret *assignation* [=*tryst*]

as•sign•ment /ə'saɪnmənt/ *noun, pl* **-ments**
1 : a job or duty that is given to someone : a task someone is required to do [*count*] My *assignment* was to clean the equipment. = They gave me the *assignment* of cleaning the equipment. ▪ The students were given a homework *assignment*. ▪ The reporter's *assignment* is to interview the candidate. ▪ The reporter is here on an *assignment*. [*noncount*] The reporter is here ***on assignment***.
2 [*noncount*] : the act of assigning something or someone: such as **a** : the act of sending someone to a particular group or place as part of a job ▪ The article discusses the recent *assignment* of senators to some of the more powerful committees. ▪ her *assignment* to the embassy in India **b** : the act of giving a particular value, identity, etc., to something ▪ the computer's *assignment* of a number to each image **c** : the act of saying that someone has something (such as blame) ▪ the *assignment* of blame/responsibility **d** *law* : the act of officially giving property or a legal right to another person ▪ the *assignment* of property
3 [*count*] : something (such as a particular position or seat) that is chosen for you to use or have ▪ She asked if she could change her seating *assignment*.

as•sim•i•late /ə'sɪməˌleɪt/ *verb* **-lates**; **-lat•ed**; **-lat•ing**
1 [+ *obj*] : to learn (something) so that it is fully understood and can be used ▪ Children need to *assimilate* new ideas/concepts. ▪ There was a lot of information/material to *assimilate* at school.
2 a [+ *obj*] : to cause (a person or group) to become part of a different society, country, etc. ▪ Schools were used to *assimilate* the children of immigrants. ▪ She was thoroughly/completely *assimilated* to/into her new country. [=she had completely adapted to her new country] **b** [*no obj*] : to adopt the ways of another culture : to fully become part of a different society, country, etc. ▪ They found it hard to *assimilate* to/into American society.
3 [+ *obj*] : to adopt (something) as part of a larger thing ▪ The language is constantly *assimilating* new words. [=making new words part of itself; the language is constantly getting new words] ▪ Many of these religious traditions have been *assimilated* into the culture.
– **as•sim•i•la•tion** /əˌsɪməˈleɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ a child's *assimilation* of concepts/ideas/information ▪ Her *assimilation* into American society was complete.

[1]as•sist /ə'sɪst/ *verb* **-sists**; **-sist•ed**; **-sist•ing** : to give support or help : to make it easier for someone to do something

A

or for something to happen : HELP [+ *obj*] The device *assists* those who can't climb stairs. ▪ The President was *assisted* by his advisers. ▪ The President was *assisted* with his speech. = The President was *assisted* in writing his speech. ▪ She *assisted* the boy with his homework. ▪ Another doctor *assisted* him with the operation. [*no obj*] Another doctor *assisted* with the operation. ▪ Federal agents are *assisting* with the investigation. ▪ She *assisted* in making the decision. ▪ The cream *assists* in the prevention of skin cancer.

[2]assist *noun, pl* **-sists** [*count*]

1 *US, somewhat informal* : an action that helps someone — usually singular ▪ He wrote the story ***with an assist from*** [=*with the help/assistance of*] his friend. [=his friend helped him to write the story]

2 *sports* : an action (such as passing a ball or puck) that helps a teammate to score ▪ He had 3 goals and 2 *assists* in the hockey game.

as•sis•tance /əˈsɪstəns/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the act of helping or assisting someone : help or support ▪ Any *assistance* you can give me would be appreciated. ▪ I'll be happy to provide you with whatever *assistance* you may need. ▪ financial/cash *assistance* ▪ The store salesperson asked her, "Do you need (any) *assistance*?" ▪ She offered her *assistance*. ▪ She asked, "Can I be ***of (any) assistance***?" [=can I help you?] ▪ He wrote the story with his friend's *assistance*. = He wrote the story ***with the assistance of*** his friend. [=his friend helped him to write the story] ▪ Nobody ***came to her assistance*** [=nobody helped her] when her car broke down. — see also DIRECTORY ASSISTANCE

[1]as•sis•tant /əˈsɪstənt/ *noun, pl* **-tants** [*count*]

1 : a person who helps someone; *especially* : a person whose job is to help another person to do work ▪ a magician's *assistant* [=*helper*] ▪ an *assistant* to the college president ▪ an *assistant* to the store manager ▪ a dental *assistant* [=a person whose job is to help a dentist] ▪ a wealthy executive who has a personal *assistant* — see also PHYSICIAN'S ASSISTANT

2 : a person whose job is to help the customers in a store ▪ She works as a ***sales assistant*** [=*salesclerk*] at Macy's. ▪ (*Brit*) a ***shop assistant***

[2]assistant *adj, always used before a noun* : having the job of helping someone to do work : having a lower rank or position than others in a group, organization, etc. ▪ an *assistant* store manager ▪ an *assistant* editor

assistant professor *noun, pl* ~ **-sors** [*count*] : a teacher at a U.S. college or university who has a rank above an instructor and below an associate professor

assisted living *noun* [*noncount*] : a system that provides a place to live and medical care for people (such as elderly or disabled people) who need help with daily activities — often used in the form ***assisted-living*** before another noun ▪ an *assisted-living* facility/residence

assisted suicide *noun, pl* ~ **-cides** : suicide with help from another person (such as a doctor) to end suffering from severe physical illness [*count*] a doctor who has been involved in several *assisted suicides* [*noncount*] an opponent of *assisted suicide*

assn. *abbr* association

assoc. *abbr* associate; associated; association

[1]as•so•ci•ate /əˈsoʊʃiˌeɪt/ *verb* **-ates**; **-at•ed**; **-at•ing**

1 [+ *obj*] : to think of one person or thing when you think of another person or thing — usually + *with* ▪ I *associate* flowers *with* spring. ▪ She will always *associate* that place *with* her youth. ▪ People *associate* the company *with* televisions but it also makes computers. ✧ When one thing is ***associated with*** another, they happen together or are related or connected in some way. ▪ There are several dangers/risks *associated with* [=*connected with*] that approach. ▪ plants *associated with* the desert ▪ He has symptoms *associated with* lung disease. ▪ There are health problems that are often *associated with* poverty.

2 : to be together *with* another person or group as friends, partners, etc. [*no obj*] She *associates with* [=is friends with] some pretty strange people. ▪ They denied *associating with* terrorists. [=they denied being involved with terrorists] [+ *obj*] He was *associated* [=*connected, identified*] *with* a group of radicals in the government. ▪ I no longer wish to be *associated with* people like him. ▪ She ***associates herself*** *with* some pretty strange people. ✧ If you ***associate yourself with*** something, such as a political movement, you show or say that you support and agree with it. ▪ He was reluctant to *associate himself with* the government's position.

[2]as•so•ci•ate /əˈsoʊʃijət/ *noun, pl* **-ates** [*count*]

1 : a person who you work with or spend time with ▪ business *associates* [=*colleagues*] ▪ Her *associates* respected her for her hard work. ▪ He is a known *associate* of criminals. [=he is known to associate with criminals; people know that he works with or spends time with criminals]

2 : a member of a group or organization who is at a level that is below the highest level ▪ She started as an *associate* at the law firm. — sometimes used in the names of companies ▪ He works for Jones and *Associates*, a consulting firm in Santa Fe.

[3]as•so•ci•ate /əˈsoʊʃijət/ *adj, always used before a noun* : having a rank or position that is below the highest level in a group, organization, etc. ▪ He's an *associate* member of the club but he hopes to become a full member soon. ▪ She was promoted from assistant editor to *associate* editor and may soon be promoted to senior editor.

associate professor *noun, pl* ~ **-sors** [*count*] : a teacher at a U.S. college or university who has a rank above an assistant professor and below a full professor

associate's degree *noun, pl* ~ **-grees** [*count*] : a degree that is given to a student who has completed two years of study at a junior college, college, or university in the U.S.

as•so•ci•a•tion /əˌsoʊsiˈeɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions**

1 [*count*] : an organized group of people who have the same interest, job, etc. ▪ an athletic *association* [=*league*] ▪ a baseball players' *association* [=*union*] ▪ an *association* of local business leaders — see also PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATION, SAVINGS AND LOAN ASSOCIATION

2 : a connection or relationship between things or people [*count*] They denied having any *association* with terrorists. ▪ They have a long *association* with the school and have donated millions of dollars to it. ▪ a study examining the *association* [=*link*] between obesity and heart disease [*noncount*] The book was produced by the publisher ***in association with*** the museum that sponsored the exhibit. [=the publisher and the museum were both involved in making the book]

3 [*count*] : a feeling, memory, or thought that is connected to a person, place, or thing — usually plural ▪ Chicago has pleasant *associations* for me because of the happy times I spent there. ▪ His former school has only bad/negative *associations* for him. [=he has only unhappy memories of his former school]

Association football *noun* [*noncount*] *Brit, formal* : SOCCER

as•so•nance /ˈæsənəns/ *noun* [*noncount*] *technical* : the use of words that have the same or very similar vowel sounds near one another (as in "summer fun" and "rise high in the bright sky")

as•sort•ed /əˈsoɚtəd/ *adj* : including several kinds ▪ a box of *assorted* cheeses ▪ *assorted* colors/flavors/sizes/styles ▪ She hangs around with rock stars, drug addicts, and *assorted* [=*various*] other oddballs.

as•sort•ment /əˈsoɚtmənt/ *noun, pl* **-ments** [*count*] : a group or collection of different things or people ▪ an *assortment* of vegetables ▪ The book has a wonderful *assortment* of characters. ▪ You can choose from a wide *assortment* of options.

asst. *abbr* assistant ▪ *asst.* coach ▪ Dr. T. K. York, *Asst.* Professor

as•suage /əˈsweɪʤ/ *verb* **-suag•es**; **-suaged**; **-suag•ing** [+ *obj*] *formal* : to make (something, such as an unpleasant feeling) less painful, severe, etc. ▪ The company tried to *assuage* [=*soothe, calm, ease*] investors' fears. ▪ City officials needed to *assuage* [=*lessen, relieve*] neighbors' concerns about the new factory. ▪ He couldn't *assuage* his guilt over the divorce. ▪ trying to *assuage* [=*alleviate*] his hunger/thirst

as•sume /əˈsuːm/ *verb* **-sumes**; **-sumed**; **-sum•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to think that something is true or probably true without knowing that it is true ▪ I *assumed* he was coming, so I was surprised when he didn't show up. ▪ "Is he coming?" "So I *assume*." = "I *assume* so." ▪ I think we can safely *assume* that he's coming. = I think it's safe to *assume* that he's coming. ▪ She *assumed* from his expression that he was confused. ▪ Let's *assume* [=*suppose*] (that) she rejects your invitation. What will you do then? = *Assuming* (that) she rejects your invitation, what will you do? [=what will you do if she rejects your invitation?] ▪ We'll be arriving around noon. That's *assuming* that our flight is on time. ▪ The study *assumes* that the problem develops after birth. [=the study does not consider the possibility that the problem may begin before birth]

2 a : to begin (a role, duty, etc.) as a job or responsibility ▪

She *assumed* the presidency. = She *assumed* the position of president. ▪ *assume* [=*take*] office ▪ The king *assumed* the throne when he was very young. **b :** to take or begin to have (power, control, etc.) in a job or situation ▪ He is ready to *assume* [=*take*] control of the organization.

3 : to begin to have (a particular appearance or quality) ▪ The last game of the season *assumes* much greater importance now. [=it becomes much more important now] ▪ Their financial problems *assumed* huge proportions. [=grew to be very serious] ▪ The sky gradually *assumed* [=*took on*] an otherworldly glow. ▪ Under certain conditions, the chemical will *assume* the appearance of ice.

4 a : to make yourself have (an appearance that does not show your true feelings) in order to deceive someone ▪ She immediately *assumed* a look of innocence. [=she had an expression on her face that made her look innocent, even though she wasn't] **b :** to place yourself in (a particular position or posture) ▪ She *assumed* a sitting position [=she sat down] on the floor.

5 : to accept (a responsibility, debt, etc.) ▪ When they purchased the company they had to *assume* [=*take on*] its debts. ▪ *assume* liability ▪ The city *assumes* greater financial risk with that plan.

assumed *adj* **:** not true or real ▪ an *assumed* air of indifference ▪ He traveled under an ***assumed name***. [=he used a false name when he traveled]

as•sump•tion /əˈsʌmpʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions**

1 [*count*] **:** something that is believed to be true or probably true but that is not known to be true : something that is assumed ▪ I made the *assumption* that he was coming, so I was surprised when he didn't show up. ▪ He will come home tomorrow. At least, that's my *assumption*. ▪ Many scientific *assumptions* about Mars were wrong. ▪ We are operating ***on/under/with the assumption*** that the loan will be approved. [=we are assuming that the loan will be approved; we are behaving as though we know that the loan will be approved] ▪ I'm telling you our arrival time ***on the assumption that*** you will check to see whether or not our flight is on time before you come to the airport. ▪ Her plan is based *on the* underlying *assumption that* the economy will improve in the near future.

2 [*noncount*] **:** the act of assuming something: such as **a :** the act of beginning a role, duty, etc. ▪ her *assumption* of the presidency **b :** the act of taking or beginning to have power, control, etc., in a job or situation ▪ the *assumption* of control/authority **c :** the act of accepting a responsibility, debt, etc. ▪ the buyer's *assumption* of debt

as•sur•ance /əˈʃurəns/ *noun, pl* **-anc•es**

1 [*noncount*] **:** the state of being sure or certain about something ▪ They lent us the money with the *assurance* that they would be repaid soon. ▪ He has the *assurance* of continued support from his boss. — see also QUALITY ASSURANCE

2 [*noncount*] **:** a strong feeling of confidence about yourself or about being right ▪ He spoke with quiet *assurance* about his future plans. — see also SELF-ASSURANCE

3 [*count*] **:** a strong and definite statement that something will happen or that something is true ▪ She gave him every *assurance* that she would be there when he returned. — often plural ▪ They sought *assurances* from the school that their children were safe. — see also LIFE ASSURANCE

as•sure /əˈʃuɚ/ *verb* **-sures; -sured; -sur•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to make (something) certain : ENSURE ▪ He believed that hard work would *assure* his success. [=that hard work would make him sure to succeed] ▪ We must *assure* that every child gets a proper education. = We must *assure* a proper education for every child. ▪ Winning the Nobel Prize will *assure* [=*secure, guarantee*] her a place in history. ✧ To ***assure someone of doing something*** is to make it certain that someone will do something. ▪ A victory in this game will *assure them of finishing* the season with a winning record.

2 : to tell someone in a very strong and definite way that something will happen or that something is true ▪ I can *assure* you that you won't be disappointed. ▪ She *assured* me (that) she was OK when I talked to her on the phone. ▪ His boss *assured* him that he had her continued support. = His boss *assured* him of her continued support. = "You have my continued support," his boss *assured* him. ▪ These mistakes won't happen again, ***I (can) assure you***.

assure yourself **:** to make yourself sure or certain about something ▪ He tried opening the door to *assure himself* that it was locked. ▪ They managed to be third in line, *assuring themselves* of good seats for the concert.

as•sured /əˈʃuɚd/ *adj*

1 : sure or certain to happen ▪ Success is by no means *assured*. [=is definitely not certain] ▪ an *assured* conclusion ▪ Winners of the Nobel Prize have an *assured* place in history.

2 [*more ~; most ~*] **:** very confident : SELF-ASSURED ▪ an *assured* voice/manner ▪ His writing has become more *assured* as he has gotten older.

3 : sure that something is certain or true — used in the phrase ***rest assured*** ▪ You can *rest assured* [=you can be sure] that these mistakes won't happen again. = *Rest assured*, these mistakes won't happen again.

assured of **:** certain to have or get (something) ▪ They are not *assured of* being paid. [=it is not certain that they will be paid] ▪ She is *assured of* (getting/having) a job when she gets out of college.

as•sur•ed•ly /əˈʃurədli/ *adv, formal*

1 : without doubt : CERTAINLY, DEFINITELY ▪ The merger will almost *assuredly* lead to job layoffs. ✧ This sense of *assuredly* is commonly used with *most*, but it is not used with *more*. ▪ He *most assuredly* [=very definitely] will not win.

2 [*more ~; most ~*] **:** in a way that shows that you are confident ▪ She moved/walked *assuredly* [=*confidently*] across the platform to the microphone.

as•ter /ˈæstɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ters** [*count*] **:** a type of plant that is grown in gardens for its colorful flowers

as•ter•isk /ˈæstəˌrɪsk/ *noun, pl* **-isks** [*count*] **:** a symbol * that is used in printed text especially to tell someone to read a note that can be found at the bottom of a page

– asterisk *verb* **-isks; -isked; -isk•ing** [+ *obj*] ▪ an *asterisked* note

astern /əˈstɚn/ *adv*

1 : in, at, or toward the back of a boat or ship : in, at, or toward the stern ▪ The island lay *astern* (of us) [=the island was behind us] as we sailed east.

2 *of a boat or ship* **:** in a reverse direction ▪ The ship went full speed *astern*.

as•ter•oid /ˈæstəˌrɔɪd/ *noun, pl* **-oids** [*count*] **:** any one of thousands of small planets that circle around the sun ▪ Most *asteroids* are found between Mars and Jupiter.

asth•ma /ˈæzmə, *Brit* ˈæsmə/ *noun* [*noncount*] *medical* **:** a physical condition that makes it difficult for someone to breathe

asth•mat•ic /æzˈmætɪk, *Brit* æsˈmætɪk/ *adj, medical* **:** relating to or suffering from asthma ▪ *asthmatic* symptoms ▪ an *asthmatic* patient ▪ an *asthmatic* cough

– asthmatic *noun, pl* **-ics** [*count*] ▪ My son is an *asthmatic*.

astig•ma•tism /əˈstɪgməˌtɪzəm/ *noun* [*noncount*] *medical* **:** a problem with the eye that prevents a person from seeing clearly

– as•tig•mat•ic /ˌæstɪgˈmætɪk/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] ▪ *astigmatic* eyes

astir /əˈstɚ/ *adj, not used before a noun, literary*

1 : in an active state ▪ A breeze is *astir*. [=a breeze is blowing] — often + *with* ▪ The air is *astir with* breezes.

2 : awake and out of bed ▪ Nobody in the house was *astir*. [=*awake, up*]

as•ton•ish /əˈstɑːnɪʃ/ *verb* **-ish•es; -ished; -ish•ing :** to cause a feeling of great wonder or surprise in (someone) [+ *obj*] The garden *astonishes* [=*amazes*] anyone who sees it. ▪ Despite the hype, there was nothing in the book to *astonish* readers. [*no obj*] The garden's beauty never fails to *astonish*.

astonished *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] **:** feeling or showing great surprise or wonder : AMAZED, ASTOUNDED ▪ I was *astonished* by/at all the changes in the town's appearance. ▪ I'm *astonished* that you could behave so selfishly. ▪ They were *astonished* to see that their car had been stolen. ▪ The announcement was greeted with *astonished* laughter.

as•ton•ish•ing /əˈstɑːnɪʃɪŋ/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] **:** causing a feeling of great surprise or wonder : causing astonishment : AMAZING, ASTOUNDING ▪ He showed an *astonishing* lack of concern for others. ▪ The truck can hold an *astonishing* amount of stuff. ▪ She gave an *astonishing* performance in her first film.

– as•ton•ish•ing•ly *adv* ▪ an *astonishingly* beautiful scene ▪ *Astonishingly* (enough), the dog swam across the lake.

as•ton•ish•ment /əˈstɑːnɪʃmənt/ *noun* [*noncount*] **:** a feeling of being very surprised : AMAZEMENT ▪ The garden's beauty filled me with *astonishment*. ▪ A crowd watched ***in astonishment*** as he jumped from the bridge. ▪ They discovered ***to their astonishment*** that their car had been stolen. ▪ ***Much to the astonishment of*** her friends and family, she left school to pursue her acting career.

as•tound /əˈstaʊnd/ *verb* **-tounds; -tound•ed; -tound-**

ing [+ *obj*] : to cause a feeling of great surprise or wonder in (someone) : AMAZE, ASTONISH ▪ The magician will *astound* you with his latest tricks. ▪ What *astounds* me is that they never apologized.

astounded *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : feeling or showing great surprise or wonder : AMAZED, ASTONISHED ▪ She was *astounded* by/at the number of people in the room. ▪ We were *astounded* to discover a valuable painting in the attic. ▪ The *astounded* audience watched in amazement.

as•tound•ing /ə'staʊndɪŋ/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : causing a feeling of great surprise or wonder : AMAZING, ASTONISHING ▪ Your ignorance is *astounding*. ▪ He ate an *astounding* amount of food.
– **astoundingly** *adj* ▪ *Astoundingly*, the school decided not to punish him. ▪ an *astoundingly* successful businessman

as•tra•khan /'æstrəkən, *Brit* ˌæstrə'kæn/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a type of curly black fur that comes from a young sheep; *also* : a cloth that resembles such fur

as•tral /'æstrəl/ *adj*
1 *technical* : of or relating to the stars ▪ *astral* navigation
2 : involving a person's spirit rather than the body ▪ She believes in ***astral projection***. [=the ability of a person's spirit to travel to distant places]

astray /ə'streɪ/ *adv*
1 : off the right path or route — usually used with *go* ▪ They marked the trail so hikers wouldn't *go astray*. [=become lost] ▪ The rocket *went astray* after liftoff. ▪ The letter *went astray*. [=was lost]
2 : away from what is right, good, or desirable — usually used with *go* or *lead* ▪ Older students *led* him *astray*. [=made him behave badly] ▪ The writer *goes* (badly) *astray* [=stops being correct or reasonable] when she blames the current government for these problems. ▪ The President was *led astray* [=convinced to make a bad decision] by his advisers. ▪ Their plans have *gone astray*. [=have failed]

astride /ə'straɪd/ *prep* : with one leg or part on each side of (something) ▪ She was sitting *astride* a horse. ▪ The town lies *astride* a narrow river.

as•trin•gent /ə'strɪnʤənt/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]
1 *medical* : causing body tissues (such as skin) to tighten — used to describe a liquid or lotion that makes the skin less oily or that helps to stop a cut from bleeding ▪ *astringent* lotions
2 : having a sharp or bitter quality ▪ an *astringent* taste
3 : very critical in a sharp and often clever way ▪ Her speech included some *astringent* [=*caustic, biting*] comments about the other candidate. ▪ an *astringent* critic of modern movies
– **as•trin•gen•cy** /ə'strɪnʤənsi/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the *astringency* of her comments – **astringent** *noun, pl* **-gents** [*count*] *medical* ▪ She used an *astringent* on her face. – **as•trin•gent•ly** *adv* ▪ an *astringently* ironic writer

as•trol•o•gy /ə'strɑ:ləʤi/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the study of how the positions of the stars and movements of the planets have a supposed influence on events and on the lives and behavior of people
– **as•trol•o•ger** /ə'strɑ:ləʤɚ/ *noun, pl* **-gers** [*count*] ▪ She consulted an *astrologer* to see if she would ever get married. – **as•tro•log•i•cal** /ˌæstrə'lɑ:ʤɪkəl/ *adj* ▪ *astrological* theories/beliefs/signs – **as•tro•log•i•cal•ly** /ˌæstrə'lɑ:ʤɪkli/ *adv*

as•tro•naut /'æstrəˌnɑ:t/ *noun, pl* **-nauts** [*count*] : a person who travels in a spacecraft into outer space

as•tro•nom•i•cal /ˌæstrə'nɑ:mɪkəl/ *also* **as•tro•nom•ic** /ˌæstrə'nɑ:mɪk/ *adj*
1 : of or relating to astronomy ▪ *astronomical* research
2 : extremely large ▪ The cost of the office building was *astronomical*. ▪ We got an *astronomical* telephone bill this month.
– **as•tro•nom•i•cal•ly** /ˌæstrə'nɑ:mɪkli/ *adv* ▪ The cost of health care has risen *astronomically*. ▪ an *astronomically* large amount of money

as•tron•o•my /ə'strɑ:nəmi/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the scientific study of stars, planets, and other objects in outer space
– **as•tron•o•mer** /ə'strɑ:nəmɚ/ *noun, pl* **-mers** [*count*]

as•tro•phys•ics /ˌæstrə'fɪzɪks/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the scientific study of the physical and chemical properties and structures of stars, planets, and other objects in outer space
– **as•tro•phys•i•cal** /ˌæstrə'fɪzɪkəl/ *adj* – **as•tro•phys•i•cist** /ˌæstrə'fɪzəsɪst/ *noun, pl* **-cists** [*count*]

As•tro•turf /'æstrəˌtʰɚf/ *trademark* — used for an artificial surface that resembles grass

as•tute /ə'stu:t, *Brit* ə'stju:t/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : having or showing an ability to notice and understand things clearly : mentally sharp or clever ▪ He is an *astute* observer of the current political scene. ▪ *Astute* readers will notice the error. ▪ She made some *astute* [=*insightful*] observations about the movie industry. ▪ His analysis of the battle was very *astute*.
– **as•tute•ly** *adv* ▪ He invested his money *astutely*. [=*shrewdly*] – **as•tute•ness** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ political *astuteness*

asun•der /ə'sʌndɚ/ *adv, literary* : into parts : APART ▪ He split the log *asunder* with an ax. — often used with *tear* ▪ The government was *torn asunder* [=deeply divided] by scandal.

asy•lum /ə'saɪləm/ *noun, pl* **-lums**
1 [*noncount*] : protection given by a government to someone who has left another country in order to escape being harmed ▪ She asked for political *asylum*. ▪ She was granted *asylum* after it was made clear that she would be killed if she returned to her native country. ▪ *asylum* seekers
2 [*count*] *old-fashioned* : a hospital where people who are mentally ill are cared for especially for long periods of time : a mental hospital

asym•met•ri•cal /ˌeɪsə'mɛtrɪkəl/ *or* **asym•met•ric** /ˌeɪsə'mɛtrɪk/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : having two sides or halves that are not the same : not symmetrical ▪ an *asymmetrical* design
– **asym•met•ri•cal•ly** /ˌeɪsə'mɛtrɪkli/ *adv* – **asym•me•try** /eɪ'sɪmətri/ *noun, pl* **-tries** [*noncount*] the *asymmetry* of the design [*count*] Doctors studied *asymmetries* in the brain.

asymp•tom•at•ic /ˌeɪˌsɪmtə'mætɪk/ *adj, medical* : having or showing no symptoms of disease ▪ You should continue to take the medication, even when you are *asymptomatic*. [=even when you do not have any pain or other signs that you are sick]

at /'æt, ət/ *prep*
1 — used to indicate the place where someone or something is ▪ We're staying *at* a hotel. ▪ The kitchen is *at* the back of the house. ▪ He was sitting *at* the table. ▪ They left for Cambridge early and arrived *at* [=*in*] Cambridge before noon. ▪ The party will be *at* Susan's house. = The party will be *at* Susan's. ▪ Ann works *at* [=*in*] a library. ▪ We met *at* a party. ▪ They live *at* opposite ends of town. ▪ They met *at* [=*on*] a street corner in a town. ▪ "Is your father *at* home?" [=is your father home?] "No, he's working late *at* the office." ▪ She met us *at* the door. ▪ He was standing *at* [=next to] the window. ▪ There were 200 people *at* the wedding. [=200 people attended the wedding] ▪ Their older son has graduated, but their younger son is still *at* school. [=is still attending school] ▪ Who was *at* the controls when the accident occurred?

> The word ***at*** is used in speech in e-mail addresses. ▪ "Can I e-mail you?" "Sure. Our e-mail address is 'comments *at* Merriam-Webster dot com.'" In writing, the symbol @ is used instead. ▪ comments@Merriam-Webster.com

2 — used to indicate the person or thing toward which an action, motion, or feeling is directed or aimed ▪ She pointed her gun *at* the target. ▪ He's angry *at* his brother. ▪ His anger is directed *at* his brother. ▪ She shouted (words of) abuse *at* me. ▪ He looked directly *at* me. ▪ They laughed *at* him. ▪ She grabbed *at* my arm. [=she tried to grab my arm] ▪ He poked *at* his food.
3 — used to indicate something that is being tried or attempted ▪ I made an attempt *at* persuading him to go. ▪ I took a shot *at* doing it myself. [=I tried to do it myself]
4 : because of or in reaction to (something) ▪ They laughed *at* my joke. ▪ She's furious *at* how slowly the investigation is proceeding. — used to indicate the cause of an action, feeling, etc. ▪ I was greatly surprised *at* [=*by*] the result. [=the result surprised me greatly] ▪ He enlisted in the army *at* his father's urging. [=because his father urged him to] ▪ She visited the museum *at* my suggestion. ▪ They came here *at* our invitation. ▪ You can act *at* your own discretion.
5 — used to indicate an activity ▪ He's very serious when he's *at* work. [=when he's working] ▪ children who are *at* play [=children who are playing] ▪ She's good *at* (playing) chess. [=she plays chess well] ▪ I'm bad *at* cooking. [=I'm a bad cook, I do not cook well] ▪ She's doing very well *at* her studies.
6 — used to indicate a situation or condition ▪ I'm not *at* liberty to discuss that. ▪ *at* rest ▪ two nations that are *at* war ▪ people who are *at* risk ▪ He is now *at* peace.
7 a — used to indicate position on a scale or in a series ▪ The temperature is *at* 90 degrees. ▪ He was driving *at* almost 80 miles an hour. **b** — used to indicate a rate ▪ They sell *at* [=*for*] a dollar a dozen. [=each dozen costs one dollar]

8 — used to indicate an age or time ▪ He plans to retire *at* (age) 65. ▪ He called us *at* (about/exactly) 9 o'clock on July 24. ▪ *at* dawn/noon/sunset/night ▪ I still think of her *at* certain moments/times. ▪ He was president of the company *at* (the time of) his death.

9 — used to indicate the method by which something is done ▪ The property was sold *at* auction.

10 a — used in phrases like ***at best***, ***at worst***, etc., to indicate a possible result or condition that is considered best, worst, etc. ▪ The company will make a small profit *at best* this year. [=it is not possible that the company will earn anything better/more than a small profit] ▪ We might be 5 or 10 minutes late *at worst*. [=we will not be more than 5 or 10 minutes late] ▪ We should arrive by noon *at the latest*. [=we should not arrive later than noon] **b** — used in phrases like ***at its best***, ***at its worst***, etc., to indicate that something or someone is as good, bad, etc., as possible ▪ This is baseball *at its best*. ▪ He's often rude, and last night he was *at his worst*.

at it : doing some activity ▪ I didn't expect her to have started working yet, but she was already (hard) *at it* when I arrived. [=she was already working (hard) when I arrived] ▪ My neighbors are always arguing, and they were *at it* again last night. [=they were arguing again last night] ▪ Since we're cleaning the kitchen, we should wash the floor ***while we're at it***. [=we should wash the floor when we clean the kitchen] ▪ "I'm going to the store to buy a newspaper." "*While you're at it*, could you get some milk?"

at that see ¹THAT

where it's at see ¹WHERE

where (someone) is at see ¹WHERE

at•a•vis•tic /ˌætəˈvɪstɪk/ *adj, formal* : very primitive — used to describe feelings or qualities that human beings have had from the earliest times ▪ She thinks men have an *atavistic* desire to dominate any group. ▪ *atavistic* urges/instincts

ate *past tense of* EAT

ate•lier /ˌætlˈjeɪ, *Brit* əˈtɛlijeɪ/ *noun, pl* **-iers** [*count*] : a room where an artist works

athe•ist /ˈeɪθijɪst/ *noun, pl* **-ists** [*count*] : a person who believes that God does not exist — compare AGNOSTIC 1
– **athe•ism** /ˈeɪθiˌɪzəm/ *noun* [*noncount*] – **athe•is•tic** /ˌeɪθiˈɪstɪk/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] ▪ *atheistic* beliefs

ath•lete /ˈæθˌliːt/ *noun, pl* **-letes** [*count*] : a person who is trained in or good at sports, games, or exercises that require physical skill and strength ▪ *Athletes* from around the world will be competing at the Olympics. ▪ amateur/professional *athletes* ▪ She was quite an *athlete* as a child.

athlete's foot *noun* [*noncount*] *medical* : a condition in which the skin between and around the toes cracks and peels

ath•let•ic /æθˈlɛtɪk/ *adj*

1 *always used before a noun* **a** : of or relating to athletes ▪ the national *athletic* association ▪ They each received an *athletic* scholarship to the school. **b** : of or relating to sports, games, or exercises ▪ Students can get discount tickets for all *athletic* events. ▪ His *athletic* career spanned three decades. ▪ the college's *athletic* department/director ▪ She has great *athletic* ability.

2 *always used before a noun* : used by athletes : used during or for sports, games, or exercises ▪ *athletic* socks/gear/shoes ▪ the school's *athletic* field

3 [*more ~; most ~*] **a** : strong and muscular ▪ She's tall and has an *athletic* build. **b** : active in sports, games, or exercises ▪ He's very *athletic*.

– **ath•let•i•cal•ly** /æθˈlɛtɪkli/ *adv* ▪ She's tall and *athletically* built.

ath•let•i•cism /æθˈlɛtəˌsɪzəm/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the ability to play sports or do physical activities well ▪ He's much admired for his *athleticism*. ▪ She has speed and *athleticism*.

ath•let•ics /æθˈlɛtɪks/ *noun*

1 [*plural*] *US* : sports, games, and exercises that require strength and skill : athletic activities ✧ *Athletics* is plural in form but is used with both plural and singular verbs. ▪ College *athletics* attract students from a variety of backgrounds. ▪ The coach believes high school *athletics* is in need of reform.

2 [*noncount*] *Brit* : TRACK AND FIELD

athletic supporter *noun, pl* ~ **-ers** [*count*] *chiefly US* : JOCKSTRAP

at–home /ətˈhoʊm/ *adj, always used before a noun, US*

1 : made to be used in the home ▪ She uses an *at-home* blood test to monitor her blood levels. ▪ *at-home* exercise equipment

2 : happening at someone's home ▪ *at-home* entertainment ▪ one of the star's rare *at-home* interviews

3 : not employed outside the home ▪ an *at-home* [=(more commonly) *stay-at-home*] mother/father

-ation *noun suffix* : the action or process of doing something ▪ visit*ation* ▪ memoriz*ation*

atish•oo /əˈtɪʃu/ *interj, Brit* : ACHOO

-ative *adj suffix*

1 : relating to or connected with something ▪ authorit*ative*

2 : designed to do something ▪ prevent*ative* ▪ inform*ative*

3 : tending to do something ▪ talk*ative*

Atl. *abbr* Atlantic

At•lan•tis /ətˈlæntəs/ *noun* [*noncount*] : an island that according to legend sank to the bottom of the Atlantic Ocean long ago

at•las /ˈætləs/ *noun, pl* **-las•es** [*count*] : a book of maps ▪ a world *atlas* ▪ a road *atlas* of the U.S.

ATM /ˌeɪˌtiːˈɛm/ *noun, pl* **ATMs** [*count*] : a machine that people use to get money from their bank accounts by using a special card — often used before another noun ▪ *ATM* cards/machines ✧ *ATM* is an abbreviation of "automatic teller machine."

at•mo•sphere /ˈætməˌsfiɚ/ *noun, pl* **-spheres**

1 a [*singular*] : the whole mass of air that surrounds the Earth ▪ Experts have noticed changes in the *atmosphere*. ▪ Meteoroids burn up as they pass through Earth's *atmosphere*. **b** [*count*] : a mass of gases that surround a planet or star ▪ The planets have different *atmospheres*.

2 [*count*] : the air in a particular place or area — usually singular ▪ The waiting room's stuffy *atmosphere* made me feel a little sick. ▪ the moist *atmosphere* of the swamp

3 a [*count*] : the particular way a place or situation makes you feel — usually singular ▪ The inn has a romantic *atmosphere*. — often + *of* ▪ The relaxed *atmosphere of* the classroom was a stark contrast to the strict schools I'd gone to before. ▪ The news created an *atmosphere of* fear/excitement/confusion. **b** [*noncount*] : an interesting or pleasing quality or effect ▪ a country inn with lots of *atmosphere* ▪ The food was good but the restaurant has no *atmosphere*.

at•mo•spher•ic /ˌætməˈsfirɪk, *Brit* ˌætməˈsfɛrɪk/ *adj*

1 *always used before a noun* : of or relating to the atmosphere of the Earth or another planet ▪ *atmospheric* gases/conditions/pressure

2 : creating a pleasant or exciting mood or feeling ▪ *atmospheric* melodies

atoll /ˈæˌtɑːl/ *noun, pl* **atolls** [*count*] : an island that is made of coral and shaped like a ring

at•om /ˈætəm/ *noun, pl* **-oms** [*count*]

1 : the smallest particle of a substance that can exist by itself or be combined with other atoms to form a molecule ▪ carbon *atoms* ▪ an *atom* of hydrogen

2 : a very small amount of something ▪ The flu took every *atom* [=*bit*] of strength I had. ▪ There is not an *atom* of truth to what he said.

atom•ic /əˈtɑːmɪk/ *adj*

1 : of or relating to atoms ▪ *atomic* [=*nuclear*] physics/particles

2 : of, relating to, or using the energy that is produced when atoms are split apart ▪ *atomic* [=*nuclear*] weapons ▪ the *atomic* [=*nuclear*] age ▪ an *atomic* [=*nuclear*] reactor

atomic bomb *noun, pl* ~ **bombs** [*count*] : a bomb that produces an extremely powerful explosion when atoms are split apart — called also *A-bomb, atom bomb*

atomic clock *noun, pl* ~ **clocks** [*count*] : a special kind of clock that is extremely exact

atomic energy *noun* [*noncount*] *physics* : NUCLEAR ENERGY

at•om•iz•er /ˈætəˌmaɪzɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : a device that forces a liquid out of a very small hole so that it becomes a fine spray ▪ a perfume *atomizer*

aton•al /eɪˈtoʊnl/ *adj, music* : not written, played, or sung in a particular key ▪ *atonal* music/sounds

atone /əˈtoʊn/ *verb* **atones**; **atoned**; **aton•ing** [*no obj*] *formal* : to do something good as a way to show that you are sorry about doing something bad — usually + *for* ▪ He says that he volunteers at the homeless shelter as a way to *atone for* [=*make up for*] the sins of his youth.

– **atone•ment** /əˈtʰoʊnmənt/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ *atonement for* his sins

atop /əˈtɑːp/ *prep, chiefly US, somewhat old-fashioned + literary* : on top of ▪ The house sits *atop* a cliff overlooking the ocean.

A

atri•um /ˈeɪtrijəm/ *noun, pl* **atria** /ˈeɪtrijə/ *also* **atriums** [*count*]
1 : an open area inside a tall building that has windows to let light in from above
2 *technical* : one of two sections of the heart that take in blood from the veins — compare VENTRICLE

atro•cious /əˈtroʊʃəs/ *adj*
1 : very evil or cruel ▪ an *atrocious* period in the nation's history ▪ *atrocious* crimes.
2 : very bad ▪ *atrocious* [=*terrible, awful*] handwriting ▪ His performance was *atrocious*. [=*horrible*] ▪ *atrocious* [=*appalling*] behavior ▪ Isn't this weather *atrocious*? [=*awful*]
– **atro•cious•ly** *adv* ▪ The team played *atrociously* [=*horribly*] this season.

atroc•i•ty /əˈtrɑːsəti/ *noun, pl* **-ties** : a very cruel or terrible act or action [*count*] the *atrocities* of war ▪ *Atrocities* were committed by forces on both sides of the conflict. [*noncount*] Who could be capable of such *atrocity*?

[1]at•ro•phy /ˈætrəfi/ *noun* [*noncount*] *medical* : gradual loss of muscle or flesh usually because of disease or lack of use ▪ The doctor is concerned about possible *atrophy* of the shoulder muscles. — often used figuratively ▪ emotional/intellectual *atrophy* [=loss of emotional/intellectual strength]

[2]atrophy *verb* **-phies**; **-phied**; **-phy•ing** [*no obj*] *medical* : to become weak from lack of use : to suffer from atrophy ▪ Her muscles *atrophied* during her illness. ▪ After her surgery, she received therapy to keep the muscles from *atrophying*.

att. *abbr* **1** attached **2** attention **3** attorney

at•tach /əˈtætʃ/ *verb* **-tach•es**; **-tached**; **-tach•ing**
1 a [+ *obj*] : to fasten or join one thing *to* another ▪ I've *attached* an application *to* the brochure for you. ▪ She *attached* a note *to* the package. ▪ I *attached* the file *to* the e-mail. — often used as *(be) attached* ▪ A hook *is attached to* the back of the picture frame. — often used figuratively ▪ The man *attached* the blame *to* the two boys. [=said the two boys should be blamed] ▪ The lawyer *attached* [=*added*] new conditions *to* the contract. ▪ The shy child *attached* herself *to* her mother [=stayed close to her mother] during the whole party. **b** [*no obj*] : to be or become joined or connected ▪ The handle *attaches* here on the top. — opposite DETACH
2 [+ *obj*] **a** : to associate or connect one thing with another — + *to* ▪ It's obvious in the way he dresses that he *attaches* great importance *to* appearance. [=he thinks appearance is very important] ▪ People *attach* different meanings *to* the poem. [=people understand the meaning of the poem in different ways] — often used as *(be) attached* ▪ Magical powers were once thought to *be attached to* the stone. [=the stone was once thought to have magical powers] ▪ Little credibility *was attached to* his story. [=people did not think that his story was very credible] **b** : to associate or connect (yourself) with someone or something — + *to* ▪ He *attached* himself *to* an older, wealthy woman. ▪ She *attached* herself *to* the cause. — often used as *(be) attached* ▪ His doctor *is attached to* the clinic. [=his doctor is associated with the clinic]

at•ta•ché /ˌætəˈʃeɪ, *Brit* əˈtæˌʃeɪ/ *noun, pl* **-chés** [*count*] : a person who works at an embassy as an expert on a particular subject ▪ a cultural/military *attaché*

attaché case *noun, pl* ~ **cases** [*count*] : a small, thin suitcase that is used especially for carrying papers and documents

at•tached /əˈtætʃt/ *adj*
1 : connected or joined to something ▪ Please fill out the *attached* application. ▪ Please see the document *attached*. ▪ The house has an *attached* garage.
2 [*more* ~; *most* ~] : emotionally connected : having strong feelings of affection ▪ She's quite *attached* to her cousin. [=she likes her cousin very much] ▪ We both became very *attached* to the cat.

at•tach•ment /əˈtætʃmənt/ *noun, pl* **-ments**
1 [*count*] : an extra part that can be used with a machine to make it do a particular job ▪ The vacuum cleaner *attachments* help clean in tight spaces. ▪ I need a longer *attachment* for the drill.
2 : strong feelings of affection or loyalty for someone or something [*count*] — usually singular ▪ the baby's *attachment* to his mother ▪ They all have a deep *attachment* to the old house. [*noncount*] People need emotional *attachment*.
3 [*count*] : a document or file that is sent with e-mail ▪ I'll send the document as an *attachment* to my next e-mail.
4 a [*count*] : a part that is used to connect or attach something ▪ The *attachments* that connect the rack to the car are rusted and should be replaced. **b** [*noncount*] : the act of connecting or attaching something ▪ There are two brackets for *attachment* of the shelf.
on attachment *Brit* : working for a limited time in a particular place — usually + *to* ▪ She's *on attachment to* Australia for a month.

[1]at•tack /əˈtæk/ *verb* **-tacks**; **-tacked**; **-tack•ing**
1 : to act violently against (someone or something) : to try to hurt, injure, or destroy (something or someone) [+ *obj*] He *attacked* the guard with a knife. ▪ Troops *attacked* the fortress at dawn. — often used as *(be) attacked* ▪ He *was attacked* by a dog. ▪ He *was attacked* from behind by two men. [*no obj*] Suddenly, the dog *attacked*. ▪ The troops *attacked* at dawn.
2 [+ *obj*] : to criticize (someone or something) in a very harsh and severe way ▪ The study has been *attacked* as unscientific. [=people have criticized the study by saying that it is unscientific] ▪ People are *attacking* the mayor for breaking campaign promises. ▪ The professor has been widely *attacked* for her position on the issue.
3 [+ *obj*] **a** : to begin to work on or deal with (something, such as a problem) in a determined and eager way ▪ We eagerly *attacked* the problem. [=we eagerly tried to solve the problem] **b** : to begin to eat (food) eagerly ▪ Did you see the way the kids *attacked* that pizza?
4 [+ *obj*] : to begin to harm, injure, or destroy (something) ▪ The virus *attacks* the body's immune system. ▪ A number of trees have been *attacked* by the disease. ▪ Insects have *attacked* the crops.
5 *sports* : to try to score points or goals by moving forward in a very forceful way [*no obj*] The team *attacked* from the outset, so it was no surprise that they won. [+ *obj*] The offense *attacked* the weak defensive line.
– **at•tack•er** *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] ▪ She was able to identify her *attacker*, and he was later brought to trial. ▪ The defense trapped the *attacker* and got the ball back.

[2]attack *noun, pl* **-tacks**
1 a [*count*] : a violent, harmful, or destructive act against someone or something ▪ dog/shark *attacks* = *attacks* by dogs/sharks ▪ One of the patients was the victim of a knife *attack*. [=an attack made using a knife] — often + *on* ▪ There have been a number of *attacks on* women on the campus. **b** : harmful or destructive action against something by a disease, insect, chemical, etc. [*noncount*] The immune system is the body's defense against *attack* by germs. [*count*] The spray protects plants from *attacks* by many common pests.
2 : an attempt by a military force to defeat an enemy : a military offensive [*count*] an air/ground *attack* = an *attack* made from the air/ground ▪ The surprise *attack* came at dawn. [*noncount*] There is a threat of nuclear *attack*.
3 [*count*] : strong or severe criticism ▪ There have been many *attacks* against the professor for her position on the issue. ▪ a verbal *attack* ▪ The newspaper editorial is an *attack* on policy-makers.
4 [*count*] : a sudden short period of suffering from an illness or of being affected by a strong emotion ▪ an asthma *attack* ▪ a panic/anxiety *attack* — often + *of* ▪ an *attack of* the flu ▪ an *attack of* food poisoning ▪ an *attack of* nerves/melancholy — sometimes used figuratively ▪ an *attack of* the giggles ▪ He had an unexpected *attack of* goodness and helped us out. — see also HEART ATTACK
5 [*count*] : an attempt to destroy or end something — often + *on* ▪ City leaders have called for an *attack on* poverty. ▪ Local schools are mounting an *attack on* racism.
6 : a method of dealing with something (such as a problem) [*count*] Each problem calls for a different *attack*. [*noncount*] The current approach isn't working. I think we need a new ***plan of attack*** [=a new idea of how to do what we are trying to do]
7 *sports* **a** [*count*] : an attempt by a player or group of players to score points, goals, or runs — usually singular ▪ They had a sustained *attack* but could not score. ▪ The players carried the *attack* deep into the opponent's side of the field. ▪ They won the game in the last two innings with an 8-hit *attack*. [=they won the game by getting eight hits in the last two innings] **b** *Brit* : the players on a team who try to score : OFFENSE [*singular*] The team's *attack* has been weakened by injury. [*noncount*] He will play ***in attack*** [=(*US*) *on offense*]
on the attack : making an attack ▪ The soldiers were *on the attack*. [=were attacking the enemy] ▪ The team was *on the attack* [=was aggressively trying to score] for most of the first half. ▪ The team ***went on the attack*** [=began to attack] and quickly scored a goal. ▪ The candidate *went on the at-*

tack and accused his opponent of lying. ▪ Opponents of the project *went on the attack* and defeated the land sale.

under attack : being affected or hurt by an attack : being attacked ▪ The troops were *under attack* [=were being attacked by the enemy] throughout the day. ▪ The troops suddenly ***came under attack***. [=began to be attacked] ▪ The new policy has *come under attack* [=has been strongly criticized] by environmentalists.

[3]attack *adj, always used before a noun* : designed for or used in a military attack ▪ an *attack* helicopter/submarine ▪ The bombers were in *attack* formation.

attack dog *noun, pl* ~ **dogs** [*count*]
1 : a dog that has been trained to attack people
2 : a person who is known for making very harsh and personal criticisms of other people ▪ The charges against the candidate were made by one of the governor's *attack dogs*.

at•tain /ə'teɪn/ *verb* **-tains**; **-tained**; **-tain•ing** [+ *obj*] *somewhat formal*
1 : to accomplish or achieve (something) : to succeed in getting or doing (something) ▪ a quest to *attain* enlightenment ▪ She refused to let the injury keep her from *attaining* her goal of being in the Olympics.
2 : to grow or increase to (a particular amount, size, etc.) : REACH ▪ This kind of tree can *attain* a height of 20 feet within just a few years. ▪ The car can *attain* a top speed of 200 mph.
– **at•tain•able** /ə'teɪnəbəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ Be sure that the goals you set are *attainable*. [=*achievable*]

at•tain•ment /ə'teɪnmənt/ *noun, pl* **-ments** *formal*
1 [*noncount*] : the state or condition of having gotten or done something difficult : the act of attaining something : ACHIEVEMENT ▪ She values educational *attainment* above all else. — often + *of* ▪ She is working toward the *attainment of* her goals. ▪ the *attainment of* enlightenment
2 [*count*] : something that has been gotten, done, or achieved through effort : ACHIEVEMENT ▪ Her scientific *attainments* have made her quite well-known in the field of biology.

[1]at•tempt /ə'tɛmpt/ *verb* **-tempts**; **-tempt•ed**; **-tempt•ing** [+ *obj*] : to try to do (something) : to try to accomplish or complete (something) ▪ They've *attempted* a climb up Mount Everest once before. ▪ She *attempted* suicide early in their marriage. — often followed by *to* + *verb* ▪ Do not *attempt to repair* the equipment without the proper tools. ▪ The book *attempts to prove* that they were not guilty.
– **attempted** *adj* ▪ an *attempted* robbery/murder/suicide

synonyms ATTEMPT, TRY, ENDEAVOR, and STRIVE mean to make an effort to do or accomplish something. ATTEMPT is a basic word that sometimes stresses the beginning of this kind of effort. ▪ He will *attempt* to photograph the rare bird. TRY is very close to ATTEMPT but often stresses effort that is made to test or prove something. ▪ The team is *trying* to determine which fuel is less efficient overall. ENDEAVOR is a more formal word that usually suggests a serious and continuing effort. ▪ As a teacher, he *endeavors* to inspire a love of learning in his students. STRIVE suggests effort made over a long period of time in order to accomplish something difficult. ▪ Despite setbacks, we must continue to *strive* for peace.

[2]attempt *noun, pl* **-tempts** [*count*]
1 : an act of trying to do something ▪ In an *attempt* [=*effort*] to raise money, the school will begin charging admission to school concerts. ▪ She failed her driving test on the first *attempt* but she succeeded on her second *attempt*. ▪ We both ***made an attempt*** [=*tried*] to be friendly despite recent arguments. ▪ He ***made no attempt*** to apologize. [=he did not try to apologize] ▪ It was a successful *attempt at* climbing Mount Everest. = It was a successful ***attempt on*** Mount Everest. ✧ *Attempt* often suggests that the effort made was unsuccessful. ▪ a suicide *attempt* ▪ an assassination *attempt*
2 : something that results from trying to do something ▪ Her *attempt* at a home-cooked meal consisted of frozen fish sticks and a can of soup.
an attempt on someone's life : an act of trying to kill someone : a usually unsuccessful effort to kill someone ▪ Police report that there has been *an attempt on the actor's life*. ▪ Someone ***made an attempt on her life***. [=someone tried to kill her]

at•tend /ə'tɛnd/ *verb* **-tends**; **-tend•ed**; **-tend•ing**
1 a : to go to and be present at (an event, meeting, etc.) [+ *obj*] My husband and I will both *attend* the banquet. ▪ How many people *attended* the baseball game? ▪ He won't be *attending* the conference. [*no obj*] How many people will be *attending*? ▪ One hundred people *attended*. **b** [+ *obj*] : to regularly go to (classes, church services, etc.) ▪ She *attends* a school in the city. ▪ He'll be *attending* the university in the fall. ▪ I am the first child in my family to *attend* college. ▪ We *attend* the same church.
2 [+ *obj*] **a** : to help or care for (someone, such as a patient) ▪ Each nurse *attends* 15 patients. **b** : to assist with (a birth) ▪ A midwife *attended* the birth. — see also ATTENDING
3 [+ *obj*] *formal* : to go with or be with (someone) as a helper or adviser ▪ ministers who *attend* the king ▪ She's *attended* by several assistants.
attend to [*phrasal verb*] ***attend to (someone or something)***
1 : to deal with (something) ▪ Please excuse me. I must *attend to* some business. = Please excuse me. I've got some business I must *attend to*. **2** : to give needed help or attention to (someone or something) ▪ Volunteers *attend to* the park for the summer. ▪ The hotel staff *attended to* my every need. ▪ Please make sure that the guests are *attended to*.

at•ten•dance /ə'tɛndəns/ *noun, pl* **-danc•es**
1 : the number of people present at an event, meeting, etc. [*noncount*] The team wants to double *attendance* at its games this season. ▪ *Attendance* is down so far this season. [*count*] Museum *attendances* in the city have been increasing in recent years.
2 [*noncount*] **a** : the act of being present at a place ▪ *Attendance* (at all classes) is mandatory. **b** : a record of how often a person goes to classes, meetings, etc. ▪ Her grades are good, but how's her *attendance*? ▪ a student who has ***perfect attendance*** [=a student who has been present at every class] ▪ The teacher ***takes attendance*** [=makes a record of who is present] every day.
in attendance **1** : present at an event, meeting, etc. ▪ Everyone *in attendance* voted in favor of the measure. ▪ A number of celebrities were *in attendance*. **2** : caring for or helping someone who is giving giving birth or getting medical treatment ▪ Who was *in attendance* at the birth? ▪ midwives/doctors *in attendance*

[1]at•ten•dant /ə'tɛndənt/ *noun, pl* **-dants** [*count*]
1 : an assistant or servant ▪ a bride and her *attendants* [=*bridesmaids*] ▪ the royal family's *attendants*
2 : an employee who serves or helps customers ▪ gas station *attendants* ▪ She let the parking *attendant* park her car. — see also FLIGHT ATTENDANT

[2]attendant *adj, formal* : coming with or following as a result ▪ The town is trying to deal with the population boom and the *attendant* increase in traffic. — often + *on* or *upon* ▪ the problems *attendant on/upon* the introduction of new technology

at•tend•ee /əˌtɛn'di:/ *noun, pl* **-ees** [*count*] : a person who is present at an event, meeting, etc., or at a particular place ▪ There were 300 *attendees* at the conference.

at•tend•er /ə'tɛndɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] *chiefly Brit* : ATTENDEE ▪ They are frequent/regular *attenders* at the church.

at•tend•ing /ə'tɛndɪŋ/ *adj, always used before a noun, chiefly US* : serving as a doctor on the staff of a hospital who regularly visits and treats patients and is in charge of other staff members ▪ an *attending* physician/surgeon

at•ten•tion /ə'tɛnʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions**
1 : the act or power of carefully thinking about, listening to, or watching someone or something [*noncount*] We focused our *attention* on this particular poem. ▪ My *attention* wasn't really on the game. ▪ The game was boring and my *attention* began to wander. [=I was losing interest in the game and started thinking about other things] ▪ You need to ***pay more attention*** in school. ▪ Please give me your ***undivided/full/complete attention***. [=please listen carefully and concentrate on what I am saying and doing] ▪ The movie ***keeps/holds your attention*** [=*interest*] right to the very end. — often + *to* ▪ Her job requires careful *attention to* detail. ▪ You need to ***pay more attention to*** the teacher. ▪ ***Don't pay any attention to*** what the other kids say. [=ignore what the other kids say] ▪ It's time to ***turn/give our attention to*** the next project. ▪ ***Pay (close/careful) attention to*** what he says. [*count*] (*US*) Lately she's been focusing her *attentions* on making sales. ✧ This sense is sometimes used as an interjection. ▪ *Attention*, please! [=please give me your attention]
2 [*noncount*] : notice, interest, or awareness ▪ She likes all the *attention* she is getting from the media/press. ▪ The actor avoids drawing *attention* to himself. ▪ The book has received/attracted national *attention*. ▪ The trial is getting a lot of public *attention*. ▪ The children were competing for the teacher's

A

attention. ▪ A cat on a leash is sure to attract *attention*. ▪ Your hard work and dedication have not ***escaped my attention*** [=I have noticed your hard work and dedication] ▪ The book's title ***grabbed/caught my attention*** [=the title caused me to look at the book] ▪ He was trying to ***divert/distract attention*** away from his friend's mistake. [=he was trying to keep people from noticing or thinking about his friend's mistake] ▪ We tried to ***attract/get your attention*** [=we tried to get you to see us], but you didn't hear us calling you. ▪ Thank you for ***bringing the matter to my attention*** [=making me aware of the matter] ▪ It has been ***brought to my attention*** [=I've been made aware] that the meeting has been canceled. ▪ I would like to ***call/bring your attention to*** a problem we are having. ▪ It ***came to my attention*** [=I noticed] that several items were missing from my office. ▪ It has ***come to my attention*** [=I have been made aware] that some people were offended by my comments. ▪ He loves being the ***center of attention*** [=he loves being noticed and watched by many people]

3 [*noncount*] : special care or treatment ▪ Be sure the dog gets plenty of *attention*. ▪ The house is in good shape, but the porch needs some *attention*. ▪ The victim needed immediate medical *attention*.

4 *attentions* [*plural*] : acts of kindness, care, or courtesy : acts that show affection or admiration for someone ▪ She found his *attentions* flattering. ▪ She has been receiving unwanted *attentions* from a coworker.

5 [*noncount*] : the way a soldier stands with the body stiff and straight, the feet together, and both arms at the sides — often used as a command ▪ *Attention*!

at attention **1** *or* ***to attention*** : standing silently with the body stiff and straight, the feet together, and both arms at the sides ▪ (*US*) The troops ***stood at attention*** = (*Brit*) The troops stood ***to attention*** — compare *at ease* at ¹EASE **2** : in a position that shows careful listening or attention ▪ The dog sat *at attention*, listening for something in the distance.

attention deficit disorder *noun* [*noncount*] *medical* : a condition in which someone (such as a child) has problems with learning and behavior because of being unable to think about or pay attention to things for very long — abbr. *ADD*

attention span *noun, pl* **~ spans** [*count*] : the length of time during which someone is able to think about or remain interested in something ▪ people with short *attention spans*

at·ten·tive /ə'tɛntɪv/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*]
1 : thinking about or watching something carefully : paying careful attention to something ▪ *Attentive* [=*observant*] readers might notice some mistakes in the book. ▪ an *attentive* audience — often + *to* ▪ He's very *attentive to* details.
2 : very concerned about the needs of others ▪ The hospital is proud of its *attentive* staff. ▪ Our waiter was very *attentive*.
– **at·ten·tive·ly** *adv* ▪ The audience listened/watched *attentively*. – **at·ten·tive·ness** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ We appreciated the *attentiveness* of the hospital staff.

at·ten·u·ate /ə'tɛnjəˌweɪt/ *verb* **-ates**; **-at·ed**; **-at·ing** [+ *obj*] *formal* : to make (something) weaker or less in amount, effect, or force ▪ Earplugs will *attenuate* the loud sounds of the machinery. ▪ an *attenuated* virus
– **at·ten·u·a·tion** /əˌtɛnjə'weɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*]

at·test /ə'tɛst/ *verb* **-tests**; **-test·ed**; **-test·ing** *formal* : to show, prove, or state that something is true or real [*no obj*] — usually + *to* ▪ I can *attest to* the truth of his statement. ▪ The popularity of the treatment *attests to* its effectiveness. [=shows that it is effective] [+ *obj*] I can *attest* that what he has said is true. ▪ The certificate *attests* the authenticity of the painting. ▪ He was asked to *attest* [=*authenticate*] the will/signature. — often used as *(be) attested* ▪ The plant's presence in the ancient world *is attested* by fossils that have been found. ▪ the first *attested* written language
– **at·tes·ta·tion** /ˌæˌtɛs'teɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** [*count*] the first *attestations* of written language [*noncount*] The signature required *attestation*.

at·tic /'ætɪk/ *noun, pl* **-tics** [*count*] : a room or space that is just below the roof of a building and that is often used to store things

at·tire /ə'tajɚ/ *noun* [*noncount*] *formal* : clothing ▪ beach/business/golf *attire* ▪ Proper *attire* is required at the restaurant.

at·tired /ə'tajɚd/ *adj, formal* : dressed in a particular way ▪ an elegantly *attired* gentleman ▪ Both were *attired* in the distinctive uniform.

at·ti·tude /'ætəˌtu:d, *Brit* 'ætəˌtju:d/ *noun, pl* **-tudes**
1 [*count*] : the way you think and feel about someone or something ▪ He has a positive/negative *attitude* about the changes. — often + *to, toward*, or *towards* ▪ I don't understand your *attitude to* money. ▪ She's studying how *attitudes toward* death vary from culture to culture. ▪ He wants to change the hostile *attitude* they have *toward* technology.
2 [*count*] : a feeling or way of thinking that affects a person's behavior ▪ He has an aggressive/rebellious *attitude*. [=he behaves toward other people in an aggressive/rebellious way] ▪ She's friendly and has a good *attitude*. ▪ You need to change your bad *attitude*. ▪ There's been a change/shift in his *attitude* since his accident. ▪ She has an ***attitude problem*** [=she is not friendly or cooperative]
3 *informal* **a** : a way of thinking and behaving that people regard as unfriendly, rude, etc. [*count*] I don't know what her problem is. She has a real *attitude*. ▪ I suggest you get rid of that *attitude* and shape up. [*noncount*] He was showing some *attitude* during practice today, so the coach benched him. **b** [*noncount*] : a strong, confident, or impressive quality ▪ a band/movie with *attitude*
4 [*count*] *formal* : a particular way of positioning your body ▪ She bowed her head in an *attitude* of prayer.
cop an attitude see ²COP

at·ti·tu·di·nal /ˌætə'tu:dənəl, *Brit* ˌætə'tju:dənəl/ *adj, formal* : relating to, based on, or showing a person's opinions and feelings ▪ *attitudinal* changes/judgments

attn. *abbr* attention

at·tor·ney /ə'tɚni/ *noun, pl* **-neys** [*count*] *chiefly US* : LAWYER — see also DISTRICT ATTORNEY, POWER OF ATTORNEY, STATE ATTORNEY

attorney at law *noun, pl* **attorneys at law** [*count*] *chiefly US, formal* : LAWYER — used chiefly as a title ▪ John Smith, *Attorney at Law*

attorney general *noun, pl* **attorneys general** *or* **attorney generals** [*count*] : the chief lawyer of a country or state who represents the government in legal matters

at·tract /ə'trækt/ *verb* **-tracts**; **-tract·ed**; **-tract·ing** [+ *obj*]
1 a : to cause (someone) to choose to do or be involved in something ▪ The company has a difficult time *attracting* good employees because of its poor pay and benefits. ▪ The chance to travel around the world *attracted* me to a career as a flight attendant. **b** : to cause (someone) to like or be interested in something — usually used as *(be) attracted* ▪ He *is attracted* to hockey because of the constant action of the game. ▪ I *was attracted* by the town's vibrant art community.
2 : to cause (someone or something) to go to or move to or toward a place ▪ The museum *attracts* visitors from all over the world. ▪ The smell of freshly baked cookies *attracted* the children (to the kitchen). ▪ The scent will *attract* certain insects. ▪ Certain insects are *attracted* by the scent.
3 : to cause sexual or romantic feeling in (someone or something) ▪ Short men *attract* her. ▪ Her bright blue eyes *attracted* me. ▪ The bird's colorful feathers are used to *attract* a mate. — often used as *(be) attracted* ▪ She *is attracted* to short men. ▪ I *was attracted* by her bright blue eyes. ▪ I felt very *attracted* to her. — see also *opposites attract* at ³OPPOSITE
4 : to cause (a particular reaction) : to get or create (attention, notice, interest, etc.) ▪ The trial is *attracting* a lot of attention. ▪ Her comment *attracted* criticism. ▪ The bird uses its call to *attract* the attention of a mate.
5 *physics* : to pull (something) to or toward something else ▪ A magnet *attracts* iron.

at·trac·tion /ə'trækʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions**
1 [*count*] **a** : something interesting or enjoyable that people want to visit, see, or do ▪ The waterfall continues to be the main *attraction* at the park. ▪ The town's big *attraction* for movie lovers is the annual film festival. ▪ Buses take visitors to all the city's best ***tourist attractions*** [=things tourists usually like to see or do] ✧ A ***coming attraction*** is a movie, show, or other interesting thing that is going to happen or be available soon. ▪ Before the movie began, we saw previews of *coming attractions*. **b** : a performer who people want to see ▪ She is the star *attraction* of the show.
2 [*singular*] : a feeling that makes someone romantically or sexually interested in another person ▪ There's a strong sexual *attraction* between them. ▪ His *attraction* to her grew over the course of their time together.
3 : a feature or quality that makes someone or something interesting or enjoyable [*noncount*] A good relationship is based on more than just physical *attraction*. [*count*] I understand the *attraction* of skydiving, but I could never do it. ▪ What are the *attractions* of owning your own business?

4 *physics* : a force that pulls something to or toward something else [*noncount*] magnetic/gravitational *attraction* [*count*] *attractions* among particles — opposite REPULSION

at·trac·tive /ə'træktɪv/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]
1 : having a pleasing appearance ▪ an *attractive* flower arrangement ▪ He has an *attractive* [=*charming*] smile.; *especially* : having a pleasing appearance that causes romantic or sexual feelings in someone : GOOD-LOOKING ▪ An *attractive* woman greeted us at the door. ▪ I've never really found him *attractive*. [=I have never been attracted to him]
2 : having a feature or quality that people like ▪ It is a very *attractive* [=*appealing*] offer/proposition, but I can't accept it at this time. ▪ The camera has many *attractive* features at a very *attractive* price. — often + *to* ▪ His ideas are *attractive to* many people. [=many people like his ideas]
– **at·trac·tive·ly** *adv* ▪ The flowers are *attractively* arranged. ▪ an *attractively* priced camera – **at·trac·tive·ness** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ sexual/physical *attractiveness*

at·trib·ut·able /ə'trɪbjutəbəl/ *adj, not used before a noun* : caused by a particular thing — + *to* ▪ His health problems are *attributable to* a poor diet and lack of exercise.

[1]at·trib·ute /ə'trɪˌbju:t/ *verb* **-utes**; **-ut·ed**; **-ut·ing**
attribute to [*phrasal verb*] ***attribute (something) to (someone or something)*** **1** : to say that (something) is because of (someone or something) ▪ He *attributes* his success *to* his coach. [=he credits his success to his coach] ▪ His doctor *attributes* his health problems *to* a poor diet and a lack of exercise. **2** : to think of (something) as being a quality of (someone or something) ▪ The study suggests that it is a mistake to *attribute* adult reasoning *to* children. ▪ Is it right to *attribute* complex emotions *to* animals? ▪ She *attributed* some importance *to* the research. **3** : to think of (something) as being made or created by (someone) ▪ The poem is usually *attributed to* Shakespeare, but some scholars doubt that he wrote it.
– **at·tri·bu·tion** /ˌætrə'bju:ʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** [*noncount*] The *attribution* of the poem to Shakespeare is questioned by some scholars. [*count*] The identified causes were later found to be mistaken *attributions*.

[2]at·tri·bute /'ætrəˌbju:t/ *noun, pl* **-butes** [*count*] : a usually good quality or feature that someone or something has ▪ The interviewer asked me what I consider to be my best *attribute*. ▪ Both candidates possess the *attributes* we want in a leader.

at·trib·u·tive /ə'trɪbjətɪv/ *adj, grammar* : joined directly to a noun in order to describe it ▪ "Red" in "red hair" is an *attributive* adjective. ▪ In "airplane pilot" the noun "airplane" is *attributive*. — compare [3]PREDICATE
– **at·trib·u·tive·ly** *adv* ▪ The noun "city" in "city streets" is used *attributively*.

at·tri·tion /ə'trɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] *formal*
1 *chiefly US* : a reduction in the number of employees or participants that occurs when people leave because they resign, retire, etc., and are not replaced ▪ The staff has been thinned through *attrition*. [=the staff has become smaller because people have left] ▪ *Attrition* is high among social workers because of the difficult work and poor pay. ▪ a growing ***attrition rate*** = a growing ***rate of attrition*** — called also (*Brit*) *natural wastage*
2 : the act or process of weakening and gradually defeating an enemy through constant attacks and continued pressure over a long period of time — used especially in the phrase ***war of attrition*** ▪ They can only gain victory by fighting a long *war of attrition*.

at·tune /ə'tu:n, *Brit* ə'tju:n/ *verb* **-tunes**; **-tuned**; **-tun·ing** [+ *obj*] : to cause (a person, company, etc.) to have a better understanding of what is needed or wanted by a particular person or group — usually + *to* ▪ It is important to *attune* the company *to* the needs of its customers. — often used as *(be) attuned* ▪ The company *is attuned to* the needs of its customers. ▪ He *is* more *attuned to* the political climate of the region.

atty. *abbr* attorney

atty. gen. *abbr* attorney general

ATV /ˌeɪˌti:'vi:/ *noun, pl* **ATVs** [*count*] : ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLE

atwit·ter /ə'twɪtɚ/ *adj, not used before a noun* : nervously excited ▪ It was a book that set the publishing world all *atwitter*. [=caused excitement in the publishing world]

atyp·i·cal /eɪ'tɪpɪkəl/ *adj* : not typical : not usual or normal ▪ an *atypical* case ▪ This book is *atypical* of her previous work. [=is not like her previous work]
– **atyp·i·cal·ly** /eɪ'tɪpɪkli/ *adv* ▪ We had an *atypically* [=*unusually*] leisurely lunch that afternoon.

au·ber·gine /'oʊbɚˌʒi:n/ *noun, pl* **-gines** [*count*] *Brit* : EGGPLANT

au·burn /'ɑ:bɚn/ *adj* : reddish brown ▪ *auburn* hair

au cou·rant /ˌoʊkʊ'rɑ:nt/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]
1 : knowing about the newest information, trends, etc. ▪ I try to stay *au courant* with the latest developments in the industry.
2 : stylish or current ▪ *au courant* fashions

[1]auc·tion /'ɑ:kʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** : a public sale at which things are sold to the people who offer to pay the most [*count*] She bought the desk at an *auction*. ▪ He made several bids at the *auction*. [*noncount*] The house is being sold ***at auction***. = The house is ***up for auction***. ▪ She works as an auctioneer at an ***auction house***. [=a business that runs auctions] ***on the auction block*** see [1]BLOCK

[2]auction *verb* **-tions**; **-tioned**; **-tion·ing** [+ *obj*] : to sell (something) at an auction ▪ They *auctioned* a similar desk last year. ▪ The house was *auctioned* last week. — often + *off* ▪ The house was *auctioned off* last week.

auc·tion·eer /ˌɑ:kʃə'niɚ/ *noun, pl* **-eers** [*count*] : a person who runs an auction ▪ The *auctioneer* started the bidding at $100.

au·da·cious /ɑ'deɪʃəs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : very confident and daring : very bold and surprising or shocking ▪ They have *audacious* plans for the new school. ▪ This is her most *audacious* film so far. ▪ She made an *audacious* decision to quit her job. ▪ shockingly *audacious* behavior
– **au·da·cious·ly** *adv* ▪ He *audaciously* disregarded all of their concerns. – **au·da·cious·ness** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the *audaciousness* [=(more commonly) *audacity*] of their plans

au·dac·i·ty /ɑ'dæsəti/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a confident and daring quality that is often seen as shocking or rude : an audacious quality ▪ I could not believe their *audacity*. ▪ He ***had the audacity*** to suggest that it was all my fault.

au·di·ble /'ɑ:dəbəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : heard or able to be heard ▪ Her voice was barely *audible* over the noise. ▪ He let out an *audible* sigh. ▪ a clearly *audible* sound — opposite INAUDIBLE
– **au·di·bil·i·ty** /ˌɑ:də'bɪləti/ *noun* [*noncount*] – **au·di·bly** /'ɑ:dəbli/ *adv* ▪ He sighed *audibly*.

au·di·ence /'ɑ:dijəns/ *noun, pl* **-enc·es** [*count*]
1 : a group of people who gather together to listen to something (such as a concert) or watch something (such as a movie or play) : the people who attend a performance ▪ The concert attracted a large *audience*. ▪ The *audience* clapped and cheered. ▪ an *audience* member = a member of the *audience*
2 : the people who watch, read, or listen to something ▪ The film is intended for a young *audience*. [=is intended for young viewers] ▪ Her books have reached an *audience* of millions. [=have been read by millions of people] ▪ Her *audience* is made up mostly of young women.
3 : a formal meeting with an important person — usually singular ▪ They were granted an *audience* with the Pope.

[1]au·dio /'ɑ:diˌoʊ/ *adj, always used before a noun* : of or relating to the sound that is heard on a recording or broadcast ▪ The school has new *audio* equipment. [=equipment used for recording sound or listening to recorded sound] ▪ The *audio* portion of the broadcast was fine but the picture was poor. ▪ They listened to an *audio* recording of the speech.

[2]audio *noun* [*noncount*] : the sound that is heard on a recording or broadcast ▪ The picture was clear but the *audio* was very poor.

audio- *combining form* : relating to hearing or sound ▪ *audio*visual

audio book *noun, pl* ~ **books** [*count*] : a recording of a book or magazine being read ▪ I listen to *audio books* when I drive to work.

au·dio·tape /'ɑ:dijoʊˌteɪp/ *noun, pl* **-tapes** : tape on which sound is recorded [*noncount*] The program was recorded on *audiotape*. [*count*] a collection of *audiotapes* — compare VIDEOTAPE

au·dio·vi·su·al /ˌɑ:dijoʊ'vɪʒəwəl/ *adj* : of, relating to, or using both sound and sight ▪ The school will buy new *audiovisual* equipment. ▪ *audiovisual* (teaching) aids — abbr. *AV*

[1]au·dit /'ɑ:dət/ *noun, pl* **-dits**
1 : a complete and careful examination of the financial records of a business or person [*count*] The *audit* showed that the company had mislead investors. ▪ The Internal Revenue Service selected us for an *audit*. [*noncount*] You will need all your records if you are selected for *audit* by the IRS.
2 [*count*] : a careful check or review of something ▪ Our local

power company will perform an energy *audit* [=*survey, inspection*] of our house. ▪ Investigators called for an *audit* [=*review, analysis*] of flight safety standards.

[2]audit *verb* **-dits; -dit•ed; -dit•ing** [+ *obj*]
1 : to check the financial records of (a business or person) : to perform an audit on (a business or person) ▪ They *audit* the company books every year. ▪ The Internal Revenue Service *audited* him twice in 10 years.
2 *US* : to attend a course at a college or university without having to do any of the course work and without receiving credit ▪ I *audited* an English literature class last semester.

[1]au•di•tion /ɑ'dɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** [*count*] : a short performance to show the talents of someone (such as an actor or a musician) who is being considered for a role in a play, a position in an orchestra, etc. — often + *for* ▪ *Auditions* will be held next week *for* the spring musical. ▪ He went to an *audition for* a new TV show. ▪ She had an *audition for* the starring role but wound up with a bit part.

[2]audition *verb* **-tions; -tioned; -tion•ing**
1 [*no obj*] *of a performer* : to try out for a role in a play or film, a position in an orchestra, etc. : to perform in an audition ▪ When he came in to *audition*, he was very charming. — usually + *for* ▪ She *auditioned for* the starring role.
2 [+ *obj*] : to test (someone) in an audition ▪ They *auditioned* several girls for the role. ▪ We will *audition* dancers today.

au•di•tor /'ɑ:dətɚ/ *noun, pl* **-tors** [*count*] : a person who checks the financial records of a company or person to make sure they are accurate : a person who audits accounts

au•di•to•ri•um /ˌɑ:də'torijəm/ *noun, pl* **-to•ri•ums** *also* **-to•ria** /-'torijə/ [*count*]
1 *US* : a large room or building where people gather to watch a performance, hear a speech, etc.
2 : the part of a building (such as a theater) where an audience sits

au•di•to•ry /'ɑ:dəˌtori, *Brit* 'ɔ:dətri/ *adj, technical* : relating to hearing or the ears ▪ The patient has damage to the *auditory* nerve.

au fait /ˌoʊ'feɪ/ *adj, not used before a noun, chiefly Brit* : completely familiar with or informed about something — usually + *with* ▪ I'm not *au fait with* all the latest technology. ▪ They're completely *au fait with* the situation.

Aug. *abbr* August

au•ger /'ɑ:gɚ/ *noun, pl* **-gers** [*count*] : a sharp tool that is used chiefly for making holes

aught /'ɑ:t/ *pronoun, literary + old-fashioned* : ANYTHING ▪ ***For aught I know*** [=*for all I know*], he could have left an hour ago. [=I don't know when he left]

aug•ment /ɑg'mɛnt/ *verb* **-ments; -ment•ed; -ment•ing** [+ *obj*] *formal*
1 : to increase the size or amount of (something) ▪ The money *augmented* his fortune. ▪ Heavy rains *augmented* the water supply. — often used as *(be) augmented* ▪ The impact of the report *was augmented* by its timing. ▪ The army *was augmented* by additional troops.
2 *US* : to add something to (something) in order to improve or complete it ▪ Job training will *augment* [=*supplement*] the class work.
– **aug•men•ta•tion** /ˌɑ:gmən'teɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*]

au gra•tin /oʊ'grɑ:tn̩/ *adj* : covered with bread crumbs or cheese and then baked until brown ▪ They served potatoes *au gratin* with the fish. ▪ *au gratin* potatoes

au•gur /'ɑ:gɚ/ *verb* **-gurs; -gured; -gur•ing** *formal* : to show or suggest something that might happen in the future [*no obj*] The change *augurs* [=*bodes*] ill/badly for the success of the business. [=the change suggests that the business will not succeed] ▪ The decision doesn't *augur* well. [+ *obj*] This bad news could *augur* [=*bode*] disaster for all of us.

au•gust /ɑ'gʌst/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] *formal* : having a formal and impressive quality ▪ We visited their *august* mansion and expansive grounds. ▪ The family claims an *august* lineage.

Au•gust /'ɑ:gəst/ *noun, pl* **-gusts** : the eighth month of the year [*noncount*] We are taking our vacation in *August*. ▪ in (early/middle/mid-/late) *August* ▪ early/late in *August* ▪ We arrived on *August* the fourth. = (*US*) We arrived on *August* fourth. = We arrived on the fourth of *August*. [*count*] The last two *Augusts* have been very dry. — abbr. *Aug.*

auk /'ɑ:k/ *noun, pl* **auks** [*count*] : a black-and-white seabird of northern oceans

auld lang syne /ˌoʊldˌlæŋ'zaɪn/ *noun* [*singular*] : the good old times ▪ They drank a toast to *auld lang syne*. ✧ *Auld lang syne* comes from the name of a Scottish song that is traditionally sung at midnight on New Year's Eve.

au na•tu•rel /ˌoʊˌnætə'rɛl/ *adj* : in a natural state : without anything added ▪ She wears makeup for special occasions, but otherwise prefers an *au naturel* look. ▪ Some of the sunbathers were *au naturel*. [=*nude*]

aunt /'ænt, 'ɑ:nt/ *noun, pl* **aunts** [*count*] : the sister of your father or mother or the wife of your uncle ▪ He has three *aunts* and two uncles. ▪ This is my *Aunt* Mary.

aunt•ie /'ænti, 'ɑ:nti/ *noun, pl* **-ies** [*count*] *informal* : AUNT ▪ The children were happy to see their *Auntie* Mary.

au pair /'oʊ'peɚ/ *noun, pl* **~ pairs** [*count*] : a young person (usually a young woman) from a foreign country who lives with a family and helps to care for children and do housework in return for the opportunity to learn the family's language

au•ra /'orə/ *noun, pl* **-ras** [*count*] : a special quality or feeling that seems to come from a person, place, or thing — usually + *of* ▪ His presence brought an *aura of* dignity to the proceedings. ▪ The garden has an *aura* [=*atmosphere*] *of* mystery and romance.

au•ral /'orəl/ *adj* : relating to the ear or sense of hearing ▪ visual and *aural* sensations
– **au•ral•ly** *adv* ▪ The performance was both visually and *aurally* appealing.

au re•voir /ˌorə'vwɑɚ/ *interj* : GOODBYE ▪ *Au revoir*, my friends!

au•ro•ra aus•tra•lis /ə'rorəa'streɪləs/ *noun* [*singular*] : SOUTHERN LIGHTS

au•ro•ra bo•re•al•is /ə'rorəˌbori'æləs, *Brit* ə'rɔrəˌbɔri'ɛɪləs/ *noun* [*singular*] : NORTHERN LIGHTS

Aus. *abbr* Austria, Austrian

aus•pic•es /'ɑ:spəsəz/ *noun*
under the auspices of *formal* : with the help and support of (someone or something) ▪ The donation was made *under the auspices of* the local historical society. ▪ The research is being done *under the auspices of* the federal government.

aus•pi•cious /ɑ'spɪʃəs/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] *formal* : showing or suggesting that future success is likely ▪ It was an *auspicious* [=*favorable, promising*] time to open a new business. ▪ His acclaimed first novel was an *auspicious* debut. — opposite INAUSPICIOUS
– **aus•pi•cious•ly** *adv* – **aus•pi•cious•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

Aus•sie /'ɑ:si, *Brit* 'ɒzi/ *noun, pl* **-sies** [*count*] *informal* : a person who lives in or is from Australia : AUSTRALIAN
– **Aussie** *adj*

aus•tere /ɑ'stiɚ/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*]
1 : simple or plain : not fancy ▪ They choose *austere* furnishings for the office. ▪ He was known for his *austere* style of writing.
2 *of a person* : having a serious and unfriendly quality ▪ Her father was an *austere* [=*stern, unapproachable*] figure.
3 : having few pleasures : simple and harsh ▪ They lived an *austere* life in the country.
– **aus•tere•ly** *adv* ▪ an *austerely* furnished office

aus•ter•i•ty /ɑ'sterəti/ *noun, pl* **-ties**
1 [*noncount*] : a simple and plain quality : an austere quality ▪ the *austerity* of the design ▪ The *austerity* of their lifestyle was surprising.
2 [*noncount*] : a situation in which there is not much money and it is spent only on things that are necessary ▪ They lived through years of *austerity* after the war. — often used before another noun ▪ The government has announced a series of ***austerity measures***. [=things done to save money during difficult economic times] ▪ an *austerity* program
3 *austerities* [*plural*] : things that are done to live in a simple and plain way ▪ the *austerities* practiced by monks

Aus•tra•lian /ɑ'streɪljən/ *noun, pl* **-lians** [*count*] : a person born, raised, or living in Australia
– **Australian** *adj* ▪ an *Australian* writer ▪ *Australian* history/English

Austrian /'ɑ:strijən/ *noun, pl* **-ans** [*count*] : a person born, raised, or living in Austria
– **Austrian** *adj* ▪ an *Austrian* custom ▪ *Austrian* history

au•then•tic /ə'θɛntɪk/ *adj*
1 : real or genuine : not copied or false ▪ We saw *authentic* examples of ancient Roman sculpture. ▪ The document is *authentic*. ▪ Experts have confirmed that the signature on the letter is *authentic*.
2 : true and accurate ▪ The witness provided an *authentic*

record/report/account of what actually took place.
3 [*more ~; most ~*] : made to be or look just like an original ▪ The actors were dressed in *authentic* medieval costumes. [=costumes that looked just like real medieval clothes] ▪ She prepared a very *authentic* Mexican meal. ▪ The building is an *authentic* reproduction of a colonial farmhouse.
– **au·then·ti·cal·ly** /ə'θɛntɪkli/ *adv* ▪ *authentically* prepared Mexican food – **au·then·tic·i·ty** /ˌɑːˌθɛn'tɪsəti/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ We checked the *authenticity* of the signature.

au·then·ti·cate /ə'θɛntɪˌkeɪt/ *verb* **-cates**; **-cat·ed**; **-cat·ing** [+ *obj*] : to prove that something is real, true, or genuine : to prove that something is authentic ▪ Experts *authenticated* the painting. ▪ The signature has been *authenticated*.
– **au·then·ti·ca·tion** /əˌθɛntɪ'keɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ *authentication* of the documents

[1]au·thor /'ɑːθɚ/ *noun, pl* **-thors** [*count*]
1 : a person who has written something ▪ The *author* of the article didn't check his facts.; *especially* : a person who has written a book or who writes many books ▪ I enjoyed the book, but I can't remember the name of the/its *author*. ▪ a best-selling *author* [=*writer*]
2 : a person who starts or creates something (such as a plan or idea) ▪ She is the *author* of a plan for reforming the school system.

[2]author *verb* **-thors**; **-thored**; **-thor·ing** [+ *obj*] : to be the author of (something, such as a book) ▪ He has *authored* [=*written*] several best-selling novels. ▪ She *authored* [=*wrote*] several articles for the magazine.

au·thor·ess /'ɑːθərəs/ *noun, pl* **-ess·es** [*count*] *somewhat old-fashioned* : a woman who is an author ▪ a famous *authoress*

au·thor·i·tar·i·an /əˌθɔrə'terijən/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : expecting or requiring people to obey rules or laws : not allowing personal freedom ▪ They had *authoritarian* parents. ▪ an *authoritarian* government/regime
– **authoritarian** *noun, pl* **-ans** [*count*] ▪ His father was an *authoritarian*. – **au·thor·i·tar·i·an·ism** /əˌθɔrə'terijəˌnɪzəm/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ Students protested against the government's *authoritarianism*.

au·thor·i·ta·tive /ə'θɔrəˌteɪtɪv/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*]
1 : having or showing impressive knowledge about a subject ▪ He is an *authoritative* [=*reliable, accurate*] source for information about Islamic art. ▪ The book is an *authoritative* guide to the city's restaurants.
2 : having the confident quality of someone who is respected or obeyed by other people ▪ His manner is polite but *authoritative*. ▪ She addressed the group with an *authoritative* voice.
– **au·thor·i·ta·tive·ly** *adv* ▪ She spoke *authoritatively* [=*with authority*] about the history of the building.

au·thor·i·ty /ə'θɔrəti/ *noun, pl* **-ties**
1 [*noncount*] : the power to give orders or make decisions : the power or right to direct or control someone or something ▪ Only department managers have the *authority* [=*right, power*] to change the schedule. ▪ Does he have the *authority* to do this? = (*US*) Does he have *authority* to do this? ▪ This office has *authority* over personnel matters. [=this office has the power to make decisions about personnel matters] ▪ You don't have *authority* over me. [=you don't have the power to give me orders] ▪ The boss is not popular but his *authority* is unquestioned. ▪ "Who gave him the *authority* to do this?" "He didn't do it ***on his own authority*** [=he didn't do it on his own]; he was acting ***under the authority of*** the company president." [=the company president gave him the power to do it] ▪ No one ***in authority*** objected to the plan. = No one ***in a position of authority*** objected to the plan. [=no one with official power to make important decisions objected to the plan] ▪ a ***figure of authority*** = an ***authority figure*** [=a person who has authority over other people] ***synonyms*** see [1]POWER
2 [*noncount*] **a** : the confident quality of someone who knows a lot about something or who is respected or obeyed by other people ▪ She has an air of *authority*. ▪ She spoke ***with authority*** [=*authoritatively*] about the history of the building. **b** : a quality that makes something seem true or real ▪ His sincerity added much more *authority* [=*credibility*] to the story. ▪ Her southern accent lent *authority* to her performance. ▪ His opinions lacked *authority*.
3 ***authorities*** [*plural*] : people who have power to make decisions and enforce rules and laws ▪ We reported the incident to hospital *authorities*. ▪ Local *authorities* are investigating the accident. — often used with *the* ▪ He complained to *the authorities* [=the police] about the disturbance.
4 [*count*] : a person who is an expert on a subject — usually + *on* ▪ He is an *authority on* local history. [=he knows a lot about local history]
5 [*count*] : a government organization that has control of a specified activity or area ▪ She is the director of the city's housing *authority*.
have it on good/excellent authority ✧ If you *have it on good/excellent authority* that something is true, you have been told that it is true by someone you trust and believe. ▪ I *have it on good authority* that she is writing a novel.

au·tho·rize *also Brit* **au·tho·rise** /'ɑːθəˌraɪz/ *verb* **-riz·es**; **-rized**; **-riz·ing** [+ *obj*]
1 : to give power or permission to (someone or something) ▪ Only *authorized* personnel [=people who have been given special permission] can enter this area. — usually followed by *to* + *verb* ▪ I *authorized* him *to use* my name. ▪ She was *authorized* [=*empowered*] *to act* for her husband.
2 : to give legal or official approval to or for (something) ▪ The city council *authorized* the sale of the land. ▪ Who *authorized* the transfer of the funds? ▪ an *authorized* biography
– **au·tho·ri·za·tion** *also Brit* **au·tho·ri·sa·tion** /ˌɑːθərə'zeɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** [*noncount*] *Authorization* [=*permission*] is required to enter the building after hours. [*count*] I can't approve the request without a written *authorization*.

au·thor·ship /'ɑːθɚˌʃɪp/ *noun* [*noncount*]
1 : the identity of the person who has written something ▪ The novel is of unknown *authorship*. [=the author/writer of the novel is unknown]
2 : the job or profession of writing ▪ His first attempt at *authorship* failed.

au·tism /'ɑːˌtɪzəm/ *noun* [*noncount*] *medical* : a condition or disorder that begins in childhood and that causes problems in forming relationships and in communicating with other people
– **au·tis·tic** /ɑ'tɪstɪk/ *adj* ▪ an *autistic* child – **autistic** *noun, pl* **-tics** [*count*] ▪ Their child is an *autistic*.

au·to /'ɑːtoʊ/ *noun, pl* **-tos** [*count*] *chiefly US* : AUTOMOBILE ▪ a rusty *auto* — usually used before another noun ▪ an *auto* accident/dealer/mechanic/show ▪ *auto* parts/makers

auto- *combining form*
1 : self : same one ▪ *auto*biography
2 : automatic : acting by itself ▪ *auto*pilot

au·to·bi·og·ra·phy /ˌɑːtəˌbaɪ'ɑːgrəfi/ *noun, pl* **-phies** [*count*] : a biography written by the person it is about ▪ I read her *autobiography* last year.
– **au·to·bi·og·ra·pher** /ˌɑːtəˌbaɪ'ɑːgrəfɚ/ *noun, pl* **-phers** [*count*] – **au·to·bio·graph·i·cal** /ˌɑːtəˌbajə'græfɪkəl/ *also* **au·to·bio·graph·ic** /ˌɑːtəˌbajə'græfɪk/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] ▪ a very *autobiographical* novel [=a novel that is closely based on the life of the person who wrote it]

au·toc·ra·cy /ɑ'tɑːkrəsi/ *noun, pl* **-cies**
1 [*noncount*] : a form of government in which a country is ruled by a person or group with total power
2 [*count*] : a country that is ruled by a person or group with total power

au·to·crat /'ɑːtəˌkræt/ *noun, pl* **-crats** [*count*] : a person who rules with total power
– **au·to·crat·ic** /ˌɑːtə'krætɪk/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] ▪ The country is run by an *autocratic* government/ruler. ▪ The company's employees disliked the new chairman's *autocratic* style.

[1]au·to·graph /'ɑːtəˌgræf, *Brit* 'ɔːtəˌgrɑːf/ *noun, pl* **-graphs** [*count*] : the signature of a famous person ▪ We asked her for her *autograph*. ▪ He collects *autographs*. ▪ There were several *autograph* seekers/hounds outside the theater. ▪ I asked her to sign my ***autograph book***. [=a book with blank pages for people to sign]

[2]autograph *verb* **-graphs**; **-graphed**; **-graph·ing** [+ *obj*] *of a famous person* : to write your signature in or on (something) ▪ We asked her to *autograph* [=*sign*] her photograph/book.
– **autographed** *adj* ▪ She gave him an *autographed* copy of the new novel. ▪ an *autographed* photo

au·to·mak·er /'ɑːtoʊˌmeɪkɚ/ *noun, pl* **-mak·ers** [*count*] *US* : a company that makes and sells cars : an automobile manufacturer ▪ new models being offered by American *automakers* [=*carmakers*]

automata *plural of* AUTOMATON

au·to·mate /'ɑːtəˌmeɪt/ *verb* **-mates**; **-mat·ed**; **-mat·ing** : to run or operate (something, such as a factory or system) by using machines, computers, etc., instead of people to do the work [+ *obj*] The company recently *automated* its filing

A

process. ▪ a factory that has yet to be *automated* [*no obj*] a factory that has yet to *automate* ▪ When companies *automate*, employees lose jobs.
– **automated** *adj* ▪ an *automated* office system ▪ a fully/highly *automated* factory ▪ *automated* equipment/machinery – **au•to•ma•tion** /ˌɑːtəˈmeɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the *automation* of the factory

automated teller *noun, pl* ~ **-ers** [*count*] *US* : ATM

automated teller machine *noun, pl* ~ **-chines** [*count*] *US* : ATM

[1]au•to•mat•ic /ˌɑːtəˈmætɪk/ *adj*
1 *of a machine or device* : having controls that allow something to work or happen without being directly controlled by a person ▪ an *automatic* door [=a door that opens without being pushed] ▪ an *automatic* coffeemaker [=a coffeemaker that can be programmed to start and shut off by itself] ▪ I can't drive her car because it has a manual transmission instead of an ***automatic transmission***. [=a system that changes gears at different speeds without direct control by the driver]
2 *of a gun* : shooting many bullets very quickly when the trigger is pulled ▪ an *automatic* machine gun ▪ an *automatic* rifle/weapon — compare SEMIAUTOMATIC
3 [*more* ~; *most* ~] : happening or done without deliberate thought or effort ▪ Without thinking, he gave an *automatic* reply. ▪ She always has an *automatic* smile for everyone.
4 : always happening because of a rule, law, previous agreement, etc. ▪ He had to pay a fine and serve an *automatic* 3-game suspension.
– **au•to•mat•i•cal•ly** /ˌɑːtəˈmætɪkli/ *adv* ▪ The garage doors open *automatically*. ▪ The fee will be *automatically* added to the bill. ▪ Each individual winner *automatically* qualifies for the grand prize, which will be drawn at the end of the month. ▪ She has her pay check *automatically* deposited.

[2]automatic *noun, pl* **-ics** [*count*]
1 : a gun that shoots many bullets very quickly : an automatic weapon
2 : a vehicle that changes gears by itself at different speeds : a car with automatic transmission ▪ Will your next car be a manual or an *automatic*?

automatic pilot *noun, pl* ~ **-lots** [*count, noncount*] : AUTOPILOT

automatic teller *noun, pl* ~ **-ers** [*count*] *US* : ATM

automatic teller machine *noun, pl* ~ **-chines** [*count*] *US* : ATM

au•tom•a•ton /ɑˈtɑːmətən/ *noun, pl* **au•tom•a•tons** *or* **au•tom•a•ta** /-ətə/ [*count*]
1 : a machine that can move by itself; *especially* : ROBOT
2 : a person who acts in a mechanical or machinelike way ▪ an unfeeling *automaton*

au•to•mo•bile /ˌɑːtəmoʊˈbiːl/ *noun, pl* **-biles** [*count*] *US* : a vehicle used for carrying passengers on streets and roads : CAR ▪ He drives an expensive *automobile*. — often used before another noun ▪ She was in an *automobile* accident. ▪ *automobile* insurance ▪ an *automobile* manufacturer

au•to•mo•tive /ˌɑːtəˈmoʊtɪv/ *adj, always used before a noun* : of, relating to, or concerned with cars and other vehicles ▪ the *automotive* industry ▪ The store stocks *automotive* parts.

au•ton•o•mous /ɑˈtɑːnəməs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]
1 : existing or acting separately from other things or people : INDEPENDENT ▪ *autonomous* [=*distinct, unrelated*] historical events ▪ an *autonomous* [=*separate*] women's studies program ▪ Many disabled children become *autonomous* [=*self-sufficient*] adults.
2 : having the power or right to govern itself ▪ an *autonomous* region/republic/territory
– **au•ton•o•mous•ly** *adv* ▪ elderly people who live *autonomously* ▪ a region that operates *autonomously*

au•ton•o•my /ɑˈtɑːnəmi/ *noun* [*noncount*]
1 : the state of existing or acting separately from others : INDEPENDENCE ▪ a teacher who encourages individual *autonomy*
2 : the power or right of a country, group, etc., to govern itself ▪ The territory has been granted *autonomy*.

au•to•pi•lot /ˈɑːtoʊˌpaɪlət/ *noun, pl* **-lots** : a device that steers a ship, aircraft, or spacecraft in place of a person [*count*] an airplane equipped with an *autopilot* [*noncount*] The plane was flying ***on autopilot***. ✧ The phrase *on autopilot* is often used figuratively to describe a person who is doing something in a mechanical way without really thinking about it. ▪ She performed her chores *on autopilot*. ▪ He did his job as though he were *on autopilot*. — called also *automatic pilot*

au•top•sy /ˈɑːˌtɑːpsi/ *noun, pl* **-sies** [*count*] : an examination of a dead body to find out the cause of death ▪ The coroner performed an *autopsy* on the murder victim's body.
– **autopsy** *verb* **-sies**; **-sied**; **-sy•ing** [+ *obj*] *US* ▪ The body has not yet been *autopsied*.

au•tumn /ˈɑːtəm/ *noun, pl* **-tumns**
1 : the season between summer and winter [*count*] in the *autumn* of last year ▪ a magnificent New England *autumn* ▪ She went off to college in the *autumn* of 1999. [*noncount*] When *autumn* came he planted grass. ▪ in early/late *autumn* — often used before another noun ▪ *autumn* colors/foliage/leaves/trees ▪ the *autumn* harvest ▪ an early *autumn* chill in the air — called also (*US*) *fall*
2 [*count*] : the later part of someone's life or of something's existence ▪ These songs were written in the *autumn* of his life. [=in his old age]

au•tum•nal /ɑˈtʌmnəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : relating to, resembling, or associated with autumn ▪ *autumnal* colors/foliage/leaves/trees ▪ an *autumnal* harvest moon

[1]aux•il•ia•ry /ɑgˈzɪljəri/ *adj* : available to provide extra help, power, etc., when it is needed ▪ a sailboat with an *auxiliary* engine ▪ *auxiliary* fuel tanks ▪ an *auxiliary* police force

[2]auxiliary *noun, pl* **-ries** [*count*]
1 : a group that provides help or assistance ▪ She joined the women's *auxiliary*. [=a group of women who do work for a church, hospital, etc.]
2 : AUXILIARY VERB ▪ a verbal *auxiliary*

auxiliary verb *noun, pl* ~ **verbs** [*count*] *grammar* : a verb (such as *have*, *be*, *may*, *do*, *shall*, *will*, *can*, or *must*) that is used with another verb to show the verb's tense, to form a question, etc. — called also *helping verb*

AV *abbr* audiovisual

[1]avail /əˈveɪl/ *verb* **avails**; **availed**; **avail•ing** *literary* : to be useful or helpful to (someone or something) [+ *obj*] Our best efforts *availed* [=*gained*] us nothing. ▪ This knowledge *availed* her little. [=it was not very helpful or useful to her] [*no obj*] Our best efforts did not *avail*.
avail yourself of *formal* : to make use of (something) ▪ They *availed themselves of* his services. [=they used his services]

[2]avail *noun* [*noncount*] : help toward reaching a goal ▪ What I learned then is ***of little avail*** to me now. [=is not very helpful to me now] ▪ Our best efforts were ***of no avail***. [=were not helpful] ▪ They tried to discuss the issue calmly, but ***to no avail***. [=they were unable to discuss the issue calmly]

avail•able /əˈveɪləbəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]
1 : easy or possible to get or use ▪ The family kept emergency supplies *available*. ▪ The dress is also *available* in larger sizes. ▪ The articles are *available* at any drugstore. ▪ Fresh fruit is *available* during/through the summer. ▪ The drug is readily/widely/easily *available* in Europe. ▪ The report will soon be made *available* to the public. ▪ I missed the plane, and the ***next available*** flight doesn't leave until tomorrow.
2 a : present or ready for use ▪ All *available* resources were used. ▪ She spent every *available* dollar on her hobby. ▪ Parking is *available* for people staying at the hotel. ▪ Tickets are *available* from the box office at the theater. **b** : present and able or willing to talk to someone ▪ She was not *available* for comment, according to the newspaper. ▪ The woman who answered the phone said, "I'm sorry, but Mr. Adams is not *available* right now. May I take a message?"
3 a : not being used or occupied by someone or something else ▪ Toys covered every *available* space in the room. ▪ the last *available* seat **b** : free to do something ▪ We interviewed many *available* candidates for the job. ▪ I'm *available* to give speeches. ▪ We should go out for lunch. Are you *available* next Tuesday? **c** : not involved in a romantic relationship. ▪ He wanted to ask her on a date, but wasn't sure if she was *available*. [=*single*] ▪ a great way to meet *available* men/women/singles
– **avail•abil•i•ty** /əˌveɪləˈbɪləti/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ The drug's lack of *availability* presents a serious problem for them. ▪ She's the perfect candidate for the job, but I need to confirm her *availability*. [=I need to make sure she is available] ▪ The *availability* of affordable housing attracted us to this town.

av•a•lanche /ˈævəˌlænʧ/ *noun, pl* **-lanch•es**
1 [*count*] : a large amount of snow and ice or of dirt and rocks that slides suddenly down the side of a mountain ▪ He was buried/trapped by an *avalanche*.
2 [*singular*] : a sudden great amount of something ▪ an *avalanche* of words ▪ an *avalanche* of praise/publicity

avant–garde /ˌɑːˌvɑːntˈgɑəd, *Brit* ˌævɒŋˈgɑːd/ *noun, pl*

avant–gardes [*count*] : a group of people who develop new and often very surprising ideas in art, literature, etc. ▪ a literary *avant-garde* — often used with *the* ▪ The book discusses the role of *the avant-garde* in the film industry.

– **avant–garde** *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ *avant-garde* art ▪ *avant-garde* artists/composers/writers ▪ *avant-garde* films/theater – **avant–gard·ism** /ˌɑˌvɑntˈgɑəˌdɪzəm, *Brit* ˌævɒŋˈgɑdˌɪzəm/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ theatrical *avant-gardism* – **avant–gard·ist** /ˌɑːˌvɑːntˈgɑədɪst, *Brit* ˌævɒŋˈgɑːdɪst/ *noun, pl* **-ists** [*count*] ▪ Some *avant-gardists* began experimenting with new film techniques.

av·a·rice /ˈævərəs/ *noun* [*noncount*] *formal* + *disapproving* : a strong desire to have or get money : GREED ▪ The corporate world is plagued by *avarice* and a thirst for power. ▪ He was driven by *avarice*.

– **av·a·ri·cious** /ˌævəˈrɪʃəs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ a spiteful and *avaricious* [=*greedy*] person

av·a·tar /ˈævəˌtɑə/ *noun, pl* **-tars** [*count*]

1 *Hinduism* : the human or animal form of a Hindu god on earth ▪ an *avatar* of Vishnu

2 *formal* : someone who represents a type of person, an idea, or a quality ▪ She has come to be regarded as an *avatar* of charity and concern for the poor.

3 *computers* : a small picture that represents a computer user in a game, on the Internet, etc. ▪ She chose a penguin as her personal *avatar* in the chat room.

ave. *abbr* avenue

avenge /əˈvɛnʤ/ *verb* **aveng·es**; **avenged**; **aveng·ing** [+ *obj*] : to harm or punish someone who has harmed you or someone or something that you care about ▪ The brothers vowed to *avenge* the death of their father. ▪ They vowed to *avenge* their father by capturing and punishing his killer. ▪ The team is out to *avenge* last week's defeat. [=to defeat the team that they were defeated by last week] ▪ She vowed to ***avenge herself*** [=to get revenge], saying she would make him pay for what he had done to her.

– **aveng·er** *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] ▪ the *avengers* of those who had been killed – **avenging** *adj* ▪ saw herself as an *avenging* angel

av·e·nue /ˈævəˌnuː, *Brit* ˈævəˌnjuː/ *noun, pl* **-nues** [*count*]

1 a : a wide street ▪ We drove down the *avenue*. — often used in names ▪ Sixth *Avenue* in Manhattan ▪ She grew up on Ledgelawn *Avenue*. **b** *chiefly Brit* : a path or driveway that leads to a house located off a main road ▪ a magnificent tree-lined *avenue*

2 : a way of achieving something or of reaching a goal ▪ We plan to pursue all available *avenues* to get our message to the public. ▪ They have closed off that *avenue* of discussion. ▪ a new *avenue* of research

aver /əˈvɚ/ *verb* **avers**; **averred**; **aver·ring** [+ *obj*] *formal* : to say (something) in a very strong and definite way ▪ He *averred* that he was innocent. ▪ "I am innocent," he *averred*.

[1]av·er·age /ˈævrɪʤ/ *noun, pl* **-ag·es**

1 : a number that is calculated by adding quantities together and then dividing the total by the number of quantities [*count*] The *average* of 16, 8, and 6 is 10. ▪ Take all these temperatures and find their *average*. ▪ An *average* of 2,000 people attended the show each night. [*noncount*] Prices have increased ***on average*** about eight percent. ▪ *On average*, women live longer than men. ▪ (*US*) He saves ***on the average*** about five percent of his income. — see also GRADE POINT AVERAGE, *the law of averages* at LAW

2 : a level that is typical of a group, class, or series : a middle point between extremes [*noncount*] His work has been better/worse than *average*. = His work has been ***above/below average***. [*count*] His work has been above the *average*.

3 [*count*] *baseball* : BATTING AVERAGE

[2]average *adj*

1 : calculated by adding quantities together and then dividing by the number of quantities ▪ Take all these temperatures and find their *average* temperature. ▪ The investment had a higher *average* return. ▪ The *average* age of the company's employees is 36.

2 : ordinary or usual ▪ The *average* woman lives longer than the *average* man. ▪ Do you know what the *average* person earns? ▪ an *average* day ▪ the *average* American family/home buyer — often used informally with *your* ▪ He's just *your average* guy. [=he is a typical or ordinary guy] ▪ It wasn't *your average* snow storm. [=it was worse than an ordinary snowstorm] ▪ He's not *your average* salesman. [=he is unusual]

3 a : not unusually large or small ▪ Sales were about *average* for the industry on the whole. **b** : not unusually good or bad ▪ *Average* grades are not good enough to get you into graduate school. ▪ She was an *average* student. ▪ She thought the performance was just *average*.

[3]average *verb* **-ages**; **-aged**; **-ag·ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to have (a specified number) as an average ▪ The children in that class *average* four feet in height. [=the average height of the children is 4 feet] ▪ Her daily commute *averages* 40 minutes. [=the average length of her daily commute is 40 minutes] ▪ We *average* six calls a day. [=we get six calls a day on average]

2 : to calculate the average of (something) ▪ The teacher *averaged* the students' grades. ▪ What figure do you get when you *average* the amount of rainfall for the last three months?

average out [*phrasal verb*] **1** : to produce a result that is even and balanced when looked at over a period of time ▪ The irregularities *averaged out* over the course of the study. ▪ Sometimes you win, and sometimes you lose. It all *averages out* [=*evens out*] in the end. **2** ***average out to (something)*** : to be equal to (a specified average amount) over a period of time ▪ The gain *averaged out to* 20 percent.

averse /əˈvɚs/ *adj*

averse to : having a clear dislike of (something) : strongly opposed to (something) ▪ He seems to be *averse to* exercise. ▪ No one is more *averse to* borrowing money than he is. — often used in negative statements ▪ She is *not averse to* taking chances. [=she is willing to take chances]

aver·sion /əˈvɚʒən/ *noun, pl* **-sions** : a strong feeling of not liking something [*count*] deep *aversions* — often + *to* ▪ He seems to have an *aversion to* exercise. [*noncount*] They regarded war with *aversion*.

avert /əˈvɚt/ *verb* **averts**; **avert·ed**; **avert·ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to turn (your eyes, gaze, etc.) away or aside ▪ She had to *avert* her eyes [=to look away] at the sight of the accident. ▪ with *averted* eyes/gaze/glances

2 : to prevent (something bad) from happening ▪ He sped up and *averted* an accident. ▪ The diplomatic talks narrowly *averted* a war. ▪ an attempt to *avert* a strike at the plant

avi·an /ˈeɪvijən/ *adj, technical* : of or relating to birds ▪ *avian* species ▪ *avian* behavior

avi·ary /ˈeɪviˌeri, *Brit* ˈeɪviəri/ *noun, pl* **-ar·ies** [*count*] : a place (such as a large cage or a building) where many birds are kept ▪ The zoo has a new outdoor *aviary*.

avi·a·tion /ˌeɪviˈeɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the business or practice of flying airplanes, helicopters, etc. ▪ an expert in *aviation* ▪ commercial/military *aviation* — often used before another noun ▪ an *aviation* expert ▪ the *aviation* industry

avi·a·tor /ˈeɪviˌeɪtɚ/ *noun, pl* **-tors** [*count*] : a person who flies an airplanes, helicopters, etc. : PILOT ▪ a marine/naval *aviator*

aviator glasses *noun* [*plural*] : eyeglasses with light metal frames and large lenses

av·id /ˈævəd/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

1 : very eager : ENTHUSIASTIC, KEEN ▪ He is an *avid* admirer of horror movies. ▪ They took an *avid* interest in politics. ▪ an *avid* cook/dancer/fan/golfer/reader ▪ some of the newspaper's most *avid* readers

2 : wanting something very much ▪ He was *avid* for success. = He was *avid* to succeed.

– **avid·i·ty** /əˈvɪdəti/ *noun, pl* **-i·ties** [*noncount*] They pursued fame/wealth with *avidity*. [*singular*] an *avidity* for fame/wealth – **av·id·ly** *adv* ▪ They are *avidly* interested in politics.

av·o·ca·do /ˌɑːvəˈkɑːdoʊ, *Brit* ˌævəˈkɑːdəʊ/ *noun, pl* **-dos** *also* **-does** [*count, noncount*] : a fruit with rough dark green or purple skin, smooth light green flesh, and a large seed in the middle — often used before another noun ▪ an *avocado* tree ▪ an *avocado* salad — called also (*Brit*) *avocado pear*; see color picture on page C5

av·o·ca·tion /ˌævəˈkeɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** [*count*] : an activity that you do regularly for enjoyment rather than as a job : HOBBY ▪ He breeds dogs as an *avocation*. ▪ My favorite *avocation* is reading.

– **av·o·ca·tion·al** /ˌævəˈkeɪʃənəl/ *adj* ▪ She has an *avocational* interest in sports.

avoid /əˈvoɪd/ *verb* **avoids**; **avoid·ed**; **avoid·ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to stay away from (someone or something) ▪ Why do you keep *avoiding* me? ▪ She took a detour to *avoid* the heavy traffic. ▪ They successfully *avoided* each other for days.

2 : to prevent the occurrence of (something bad, unpleasant, etc.) ▪ He tried hard to *avoid* accidents. ▪ We need to *avoid* further delays. ▪ *avoid* embarrassment ▪ He was caught trying

A

to *avoid* arrest. ▪ in an effort to *avoid* confusion

3 : to keep yourself from doing (something) or participating in (something) ▪ I'm not going to be late if I can *avoid* it. ▪ How can I *avoid* paying too much tax? ▪ I am trying to *avoid* showing any hint of favoritism.

– **avoid•able** /ə'vɔɪdəbəl/ *adj* ▪ It was a foolish and easily *avoidable* accident. ▪ an *avoidable* conflict/risk

avoid•ance /ə'vɔɪdn̩s/ *noun* : the act of avoiding something [*noncount*] a writer known for *avoidance* of sentimentality [*count*] a complete *avoidance* of sentimentality

avow /ə'vaʊ/ *verb* **avows**; **avowed**; **avow•ing** [+ *obj*] *formal* : to declare or state (something) in an open and public way ▪ She *avowed* her innocence. = She *avowed* that she was innocent. ***synonyms*** see ASSERT

avow•al /ə'vaʊəl/ *noun, pl* **-als** [*count*] *formal* : an open and public statement ▪ I didn't believe her *avowal* of innocence. ▪ The couple exchanged *avowals* of love.

avowed /ə'vaʊd/ *adj, always used before a noun* : openly declared ▪ Their *avowed* aim/goal is to win the trophy. ▪ an *avowed* [=*self-proclaimed*] liberal/conservative

– **avow•ed•ly** /ə'vaʊədli/ *adv* ▪ She is *avowedly* [=*frankly, unabashedly*] conservative in her politics. ▪ an *avowedly* simple man

avun•cu•lar /ə'vʌŋkjələ/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : like an uncle : kind or friendly like an uncle ▪ an *avuncular* shopkeeper ▪ a man known for his *avuncular* charm

aw /'ɑ:/ *interj, US + Scotland, informal* — used to express mild disappointment or sympathy ▪ *Aw* (shucks), I was hoping to play tennis today and now it's raining. ▪ *Aw*, that's too bad.

await /ə'weɪt/ *verb* **awaits**; **await•ed**; **await•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to wait for (someone or something) ▪ A crowd of people *awaited* the train. ▪ We're eagerly *awaiting* his arrival/answer. ▪ He was arrested and is now in prison *awaiting* trial. ▪ Her ***long-awaited*** new novel is finally being published.

2 : to be ready or waiting for (someone or something) ▪ A reward *awaits* you. ▪ Numerous requests *awaited* him. ▪ The same fate *awaits* us all.

[1]awake /ə'weɪk/ *verb* **awakes**; **awoke** /ə'woʊk/; **awo•ken** /ə'woʊkən/; **awak•ing** *somewhat formal* : to stop sleeping : to wake up [*no obj*] She fell asleep immediately but *awoke* an hour later. ▪ I *awoke* several times during the night. ▪ He *awoke* with a start. = He *awoke* suddenly. ▪ The baby *awoke* from his nap. [+ *obj*] The alarm *awoke* me early. ▪ They were *awoken* by a loud bang.

awake to [*phrasal verb*] ***awake to (something)*** : to become aware of (something) ▪ We finally *awoke to* the danger. ▪ How long will it take them to *awake to* their mistake?

[2]awake *adj, not used before a noun* : not asleep ▪ Drinking coffee keeps him *awake*. ▪ I am so tired I can barely stay *awake*. ▪ She was lying *awake*, tossing and turning. ▪ One moment she was sleeping soundly—the next she was wide *awake*.

awak•en /ə'weɪkən/ *verb* **-ens**; **-ened**; **-en•ing** *somewhat formal* : to stop sleeping : to wake up [*no obj*] She usually *awakens* several times during the night. [+ *obj*] A loud noise *awakened* her. — often used as *(be) awakened* ▪ I *was awakened* by the alarm clock. — often used figuratively ▪ Her arrival *awakened* [=*revived*] old memories. ▪ His interest *was awakened*. [=*aroused*]

awaken to [*phrasal verb*] ***awaken to (something) or awaken (someone or something) to (something)*** : to become aware of (something) or to make (someone or something) aware of (something) ▪ They finally *awakened to* the possibility of war. ▪ The book will *awaken* their minds *to* the beauty of nature.

– **awakening** *noun, pl* **-ings** [*count*] ▪ The group experienced a cultural/religious/spiritual *awakening*. ▪ Her arrival brought an *awakening* of old memories. ▪ He thinks he can get by without doing any work, but he is in for a ***rude awakening*** [=he will experience an unpleasant surprise; he will learn that he is mistaken]

[1]award /ə'wɔəd/ *verb* **awards**; **award•ed**; **award•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to give (a reward or prize) to someone or something ▪ The judges will *award* a prize to the best speaker. ▪ The winner was *awarded* a gold medal. ▪ A prize will be *awarded* to the student who sells the most tickets.

2 : to officially decide that someone should get (something) ▪ The jury *awarded* damages to the defendant. ▪ The company is *awarding* the contract to the lowest bidder. ▪ He was *awarded* a patent for his invention.

[2]award *noun, pl* **awards** [*count*] : something (such as a prize) that is given to someone or something for being excellent or for doing something that is admired ▪ Will the film win any *awards* at the festival? ▪ She has won numerous *awards* for her books. ▪ an *awards* ceremony [=a ceremony at which awards are given out] ▪ an ***award-winning*** film/writer = an ***award-winner***

aware /ə'weə/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

1 a *not used before a noun* : knowing that something (such as a situation, condition, or problem) exists ▪ Are you *aware* how important you are to me? — often + *of* ▪ She is acutely/keenly *aware of* the problem. ▪ I was not fully *aware of* the danger. ▪ He was made *aware of* the situation. — often + *that* ▪ He's not even *aware that* you are upset. ▪ You should be *aware that* the possibility/problem exists. **b** : feeling, experiencing, or noticing something (such as a sound, sensation, or emotion) — often + *of* ▪ Are you *aware of* any pain? [=have you noticed or felt any pain?] ▪ I became *aware of* a loud knocking sound. — often + *that* ▪ I was *aware that* he was following me. [=I had noticed that he was following me]

2 : knowing and understanding a lot about what is happening in the world or around you ▪ She is one of the most *aware* people I know. ▪ Students today are very *aware* about the environment. = Students today are very environmentally *aware*. ▪ Politically *aware* people [=people who know a lot about politics] will not be fooled by the government's latest pronouncements.

– **aware•ness** *noun* [*singular*] a heightened *awareness* about the problem ▪ They had an acute *awareness* of what was going on. [*noncount*] I admired her level of political *awareness*. ▪ He is trying to raise ***public awareness***.

awash /ə'wɑ:ʃ/ *adj, not used before a noun*

1 : flooded with or covered by water or another liquid ▪ The deck of the boat was almost *awash*. — usually + *with* or *(US) in* ▪ a floor *awash with/in* water — often used figuratively ▪ streets *awash in/with* litter [=streets covered with litter]

2 *US* : floating in a large amount of water or another liquid — + *in* ▪ The soup consisted of little bits of chicken *awash in* a tasteless broth. — often used figuratively ▪ He was *awash in* a sea of confusion. ▪ They were *awash in* debt.

[1]away /ə'weɪ/ *adv*

1 : from this or that place : in or to another place or direction ▪ She hopes to get *away* early. ▪ The family next door moved *away*. ▪ We rowed *away* from the shore. ▪ Roll up the rug and carry it *away*. ▪ He pulled his arm *away* from the hot stove. ▪ You should keep/stay *away* from the dog. It could be dangerous.

2 : toward another direction ▪ She turned her face *away*.

3 : in a safe or secure place ▪ The will was locked *away* in the safe. ▪ She stowed the luggage *away* in the overhead compartment.

4 : into a state of being completely gone ▪ The memory is fading *away*. ▪ He is wasting *away* from the disease. ▪ echoes dying *away*

5 : from someone's possession ▪ The family gave *away* a fortune to charity. ▪ They took *away* the one thing I cared about. ▪ The beautiful scenery took my breath *away*.

6 : without stopping or slowing down ▪ The clocks are ticking *away*. ▪ The water was bubbling *away*.

7 *sports* : on the field or court of an opponent ▪ The team played both (at) home and *away*. [=the team played both home games and away games]

far and away see [1]FAR

[2]away *adj*

1 *not used before a noun* : not at home or in a usual or expected place ▪ They are *away* for the weekend. ▪ "Where is he?" "He's *away* at the moment, but he'll be back soon." ▪ when I am *away* from home

2 *not used before a noun* — used to describe how distant something is in space or time ▪ The family went to a lake 10 miles *away*. ▪ They came from a continent *away*. ▪ The holiday season is two months *away*.

3 *always used before a noun* : played on the field or court of an opponent ▪ The team played both home games and *away* games.

[1]awe /'ɑ:/ *noun* [*singular*] : a strong feeling of fear or respect and also wonder ▪ It was a sight that filled me with *awe* and reverence. ▪ a person who inspires feelings of *awe* in others ▪ an ***awe-inspiring*** sight — often used after *in* ▪ We watched *in awe* as the building collapsed. ▪ They stared *in awe* at their hero. — often used in the phrase ***in awe of*** ▪ She is still *in awe of* her teacher. ▪ I stand *in awe of* their courage.

[2]awe *verb* **awes**; **awed**; **aw•ing** [+ *obj*] : to fill (someone) with awe ▪ Her style both *awes* and perplexes me. — often used as *(be) awed* ▪ He *was awed* [=*awestruck*] by the natural beauty of the place.
– **awed** *adj* ▪ a moment of *awed* surprise

awe•some /ˈɑːsəm/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]
1 : causing feelings of fear and wonder : causing feelings of awe ▪ the *awesome* sight of an erupting volcano ▪ one of the Earth's more *awesome* [=*awe-inspiring*] natural wonders ▪ It was an *awesome* responsibility. ▪ We had an *awesome* task ahead of us.
2 *informal* : extremely good ▪ We had an *awesome* time at the concert. ▪ She's an *awesome* singer. ▪ You did an *awesome* job on that project. ▪ The movie was totally *awesome*.
– **awe•some•ly** *adv* ▪ an *awesomely* destructive weapon ▪ an *awesomely* talented singer – **awe•some•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

awe•struck /ˈɑːˌstrʌk/ *adj* : filled with feelings of fear and wonder : filled with awe ▪ *Awestruck* admiration showed on her face. ▪ They were *awestruck* by the sheer size of the project.

[1]aw•ful /ˈɑːfəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]
1 : extremely bad or unpleasant ▪ The music was *awful*. ▪ They heard the most *awful* sounds. ▪ *Awful* things began to happen. ▪ The weather was *awful*. ▪ He has some *awful* disease. ▪ That joke is just/pretty/really/truly *awful*. ▪ He's an *awful* person. ▪ That's an *awful* thing to say. ▪ She has *awful* manners. ▪ Who painted the house that *awful* color? ▪ I don't know what's wrong with me but I feel *awful*. [=very sick] ▪ I feel *awful* [=very sorry] about what happened.
2 *formal + old-fashioned* : causing feelings of fear and wonder : AWESOME ▪ The mountains have an *awful* majesty.
an awful lot *informal* **1** : a large amount ▪ They lost *an awful lot* of money. ▪ She does *an awful lot* of talking. **2** : very much ▪ I like him *an awful lot*. [=I like him a lot]
– **aw•ful•ness** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the sheer *awfulness* of it all ▪ the *awfulness* of the disease

[2]awful *adv, chiefly US, informal* : very or extremely : AWFULLY ▪ He was *awful* tired. ▪ We haven't heard from him in an *awful* long time. ▪ You've come an *awful* long way.

aw•ful•ly /ˈɑːfəli, ˈɑːfli/ *adv*
1 : very or extremely ▪ That's *awfully* nice of you. ▪ It turned out to be *awfully* difficult. ▪ The pie tasted *awfully* sweet. ▪ I'm *awfully* glad to see you. ▪ It's *awfully* cold out. ▪ You're *awfully* quiet today.
2 : in a very bad or unpleasant way ▪ He sings *awfully*.

awhile /əˈwajəl/ *adv* : for a while : for a short time ▪ I'm going to sit and rest *awhile*. ▪ The rumor had been around *awhile*.

awk•ward /ˈɑːkwəd/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]
1 a : not graceful : CLUMSY ▪ She is *awkward* at dancing. ▪ He had large feet and his walk was *awkward* and ungainly. ▪ an *awkward* movement ▪ The story contained some *awkward* writing. **b** : lacking skill ▪ She is an *awkward* writer.
2 : difficult to use or handle ▪ The machine is very *awkward* to operate. ▪ an *awkward* tool ▪ The box isn't heavy but it has an *awkward* shape and size. [=its shape and size make it difficult to carry]
3 a : not easy to deal with ▪ It was an *awkward* [=*embarrassing*] moment for everyone. ▪ I often find myself in *awkward* situations. ▪ He was put in the *awkward* position of having to write the memo. ▪ There was an *awkward* pause in the conversation. **b** : not socially graceful or confident : uneasy or uncomfortable ▪ I feel *awkward* (about) having to ask you to help. ▪ He feels *awkward* with/around strangers.
– **awk•ward•ly** *adv* ▪ The baby was crawling *awkwardly* on her hands and knees. ▪ He fell and landed *awkwardly*. ▪ an *awkwardly* written sentence – **awk•ward•ness** *noun, pl* **-ness•es** [*noncount*] A moment of *awkwardness* occurred after the introduction. ▪ the *awkwardness* of the writing [*count*] There was an *awkwardness* between us when we last saw each other.

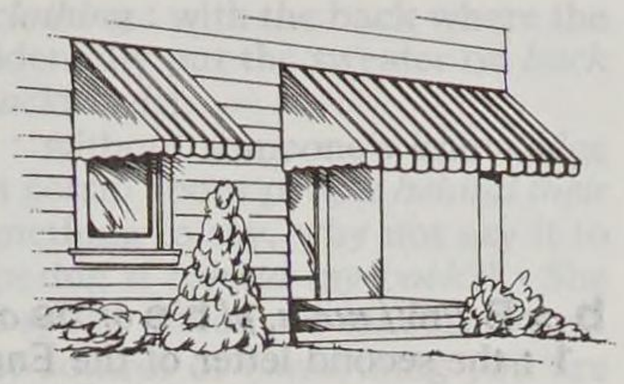
awl /ˈɑːl/ *noun, pl* **awls** [*count*] : a pointed tool that is used for marking surfaces or for making small holes in leather, wood, etc.

aw•ning /ˈɑːnɪŋ/ *noun, pl* **-nings** [*count*] : a piece of cloth on a frame that sticks out over a door or window and provides shelter from sun, rain, snow, etc.

awoke *past tense of* [1]AWAKE

awoken *past participle of* [1]AWAKE

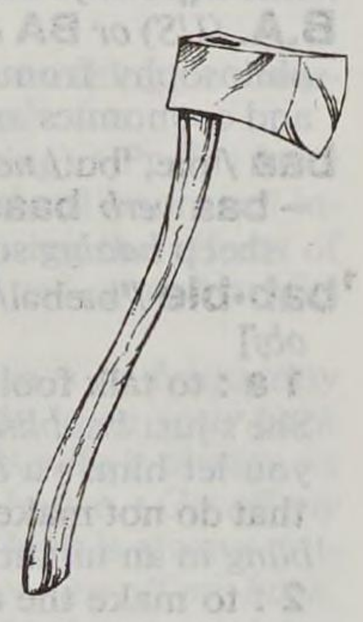
AWOL /ˈeɪˌwɑːl/ *adj* : absent from the armed forces without permission ▪ Three soldiers were *AWOL*. ▪ The soldiers ***went AWOL*** at the first chance; *broadly* : absent or missing ▪ The Senator has been *AWOL* for the last three votes. ▪ My keys have *gone AWOL*. I can't find them anywhere. ✧ *AWOL* comes from a phrase used in the military: *a*bsent *w*ith*o*ut *l*eave.


awning

– **AWOL** *noun, pl* **AWOLs** [*count*] ▪ Four *AWOLs* [=four soldiers who have gone AWOL] are still missing from their unit.

awry /əˈraɪ/ *adj or adv, not used before a noun*
1 : not working correctly or happening in the expected way : WRONG ▪ Something was dreadfully/terribly *awry*. — usually used in the phrase ***go awry*** ▪ Their plans *went awry*. ▪ Something had *gone* dreadfully/terribly *awry*.
2 : not straight or neat ▪ Her hair was all *awry*.

[1]ax (*US*) *or* **axe** /ˈæks/ *noun, pl* **ax•es** [*count*] : a tool that has a heavy metal blade and a long handle and that is used for chopping wood — see also ICE AX, PICKAX
ax to grind : a hidden and often selfish purpose for doing something. ▪ He had a political *ax to grind* with his opponent. ▪ She claims that she has no *ax to grind* in criticizing the proposed law.
escape the ax *informal* : to avoid being ended, eliminated, reduced, etc. ▪ The school program *escaped the ax* this year. [=the school program was not cut/eliminated this year]
get the ax *informal* : to lose your job : to be fired from your job ▪ The employees with less experience *got the ax*. [=were fired]
give (someone) the ax *informal* : to dismiss (someone) from a job : to fire (someone) ▪ His boss *gave him the ax*.
take the/an ax to *informal* : to eliminate (something) or reduce (something) severely ▪ Congress *took an ax to* the program. [=Congress made severe cuts in the program]


ax

[2]ax *or* **axe** *verb* **axes**; **axed**; **ax•ing** [+ *obj*] *informal*
1 : to cut or remove (something) ▪ The television program was *axed* [=*dropped*] from the new schedule.
2 : to fire (someone) ▪ The boss told him that he had been *axed*.

ax•i•om /ˈæksijəm/ *noun, pl* **-oms** [*count*] *formal* : a rule or principal that many people accept as true ▪ one of the key *axioms* of the theory of evolution

ax•i•om•at•ic /ˌæksijəˈmætɪk/ *adj, formal* : obviously true ▪ It is *axiomatic* that good athletes have a strong mental attitude. ▪ an *axiomatic* truth/assumption
– **ax•i•om•at•i•cal•ly** /ˌæksijəˈmætɪkli/ *adv*

ax•is /ˈæksəs/ *noun, pl* **ax•es** /ˈækˌsiːz/ [*count*]
1 : the imaginary straight line that something (such as the Earth) turns around ▪ the Earth's *axis* of rotation ▪ the spin of the Earth on its *axis*
2 : a straight line that divides a shape evenly into two parts — called also *axis of symmetry*

ax•le /ˈæksəl/ *noun, pl* **axles** [*count*] : a bar on which a wheel or a pair of wheels turns — see picture at CAR

[1]aye *also* **ay** /ˈaɪ/ *adv*
1 : [1]YES 1 — used especially in Scotland and in the language of sailors. ▪ The sailor said "*Aye, aye*, sir!" when the captain gave him a command.
2 — used to indicate a spoken yes vote ▪ All in favor, say "*aye*."

[2]aye *also* **ay** /ˈaɪ/ *noun, pl* **ayes** [*count*] : a yes vote ▪ We have six nays and 12 *ayes*, so ***the ayes have it***. [=the "yes" votes win] — compare [2]NAY, YEA

AZ *abbr* Arizona

aza•lea /əˈzeɪljə/ *noun, pl* **-leas** [*count*] : a type of bush that has colorful flowers that bloom in the spring

AZT /ˌeɪˌziːˈtiː, *Brit* ˌeɪˌzɛdˈtiː/ *noun* [*noncount*] *medical* : a drug used to treat AIDS

azure /ˈæʒɚ/ *noun, pl* **azures** [*count, noncount*] : the blue color of the sky
– **azure** *adj* ▪ the *azure* lake/sky/waters

B

B

b *or* **B** /ˈbi:/ *noun, pl* **b's** *or* **bs** *or* **B's** *or* **Bs**
1 : the second letter of the English alphabet [*count*] There are two *b's* in the word "abbey." [*noncount*] All of their children's names begin with *b*.
2 : a musical note or key referred to by the letter B **:** the seventh tone of a C-major scale [*count*] play/sing a *B* [*noncount*] a song in the key of *B*
3 [*count*] **:** a grade that is given to a student for doing good work ▪ got a *B* in math ▪ He's a ***B student*** [=a student who gets B's for his schoolwork]
4 [*noncount*] — used to refer to the second of two or more people, places, or things that are being considered ▪ We chose option *B* over option A.
from (point) A to (point) B see ¹A

B.A. (*US*) *or* **BA** *abbr* bachelor of arts ▪ He received a *B.A.* in philosophy from Tulane University. ▪ She studied Spanish and economics and earned a *B.A.* degree.

baa /ˈbæ, ˈbɑ:/ *noun* [*singular*] **:** the sound made by a sheep
– baa *verb* **baas; baaed; baa•ing** [*no obj*] ▪ We heard a sheep *baaing* softly in the field.

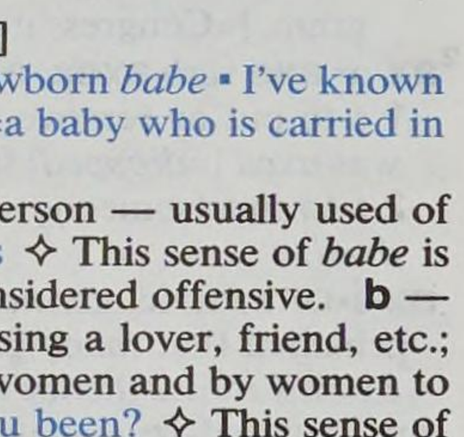
¹bab•ble /ˈbæbəl/ *verb* **bab•bles; bab•bled; bab•bling** [*no obj*]
1 a : to talk foolishly or too much ▪ Pay no attention to her. She's just *babbling*. ▪ He'll *babble* on about sports all night if you let him. ▪ a *babbling* idiot **b :** to make speech sounds that do not make sense to the hearer ▪ Her cousins were *babbling* in an unfamiliar dialect. ▪ The baby *babbled* happily.
2 : to make the quiet sound of water flowing over rocks ▪ a *babbling* brook
– bab•bler /ˈbæbələ/ *noun, pl* **bab•blers** [*count*]

²babble *noun* [*noncount*]
1 a : the confusing sound of many people speaking at the same time ▪ a *babble* of voices **b :** talk that is silly or pointless ▪ listening to their constant *babble*
2 : a quiet sound made by flowing water ▪ the *babble* of a brook

babe /ˈbeɪb/ *noun, pl* **babes** [*count*]
1 : a very young child **:** BABY ▪ a newborn *babe* ▪ I've known her since she was ***a babe in arms*** [=a baby who is carried in the arms of an adult; an infant]
2 *slang* **a :** a sexually attractive person — usually used of young women ▪ hot *babes* in bikinis ✧ This sense of *babe* is very informal and is sometimes considered offensive. **b** — used as an informal way of addressing a lover, friend, etc.; used especially by men to address women and by women to address men ▪ Hey *babe*, how've you been? ✧ This sense of *babe* is very familiar in tone. Using *babe* to address someone you do not know well may cause offense.
babe in the woods *US* **:** a person who is innocent or who lacks experience ▪ When I began my political career, I was a mere *babe in the woods*.

ba•bel *also* **Ba•bel** /ˈbeɪbəl/ *noun* [*singular*] **:** a confused mixture of sounds or voices — usually + *of* ▪ a *babel of* languages ▪ a *babel of* street sounds

ba•boon /bæˈbu:n/ *noun, pl* **-boons** [*count*] **:** a large African or Asian monkey



baboon

¹ba•by /ˈbeɪbi/ *noun, pl* **-bies** [*count*]
1 a : a very young child ▪ She had the *baby* yesterday. = She gave birth to the *baby* yesterday. ▪ Are you expecting a *baby*? [=are you pregnant?] ▪ I hear the *baby* crying. ▪ The *baby* is just learning to crawl. — often used before another noun ▪ a *baby* girl/boy ▪ *baby* clothes ▪ *baby* pictures ▪ a *baby* monitor ▪ (*US*) I gave my sister a ***baby shower*** [=a party at which gifts are given to a woman who is pregnant] ▪ She has a real ***baby face*** [=a face that resembles the face of a baby; a face that looks young and innocent] **b :** a very young animal ▪ a bird and its *babies* — often used before another noun ▪ a *baby* bird ▪ a *baby* deer
2 a : the youngest member of a group ▪ My sister is the *baby* of the family. — often used before another noun ▪ my *baby* sister **b :** someone who is young in comparison with others ▪ "Only 32? Oh, you're just a *baby*!" **c :** someone who behaves like a child; *especially* **:** someone who is afraid or who complains a lot ▪ When it comes to getting shots, I'm a real *baby*. ▪ Don't be such a *baby*—you'll get your turn.
3 *slang* **a :** a lover or sweetheart ▪ Nothing's gone right since my *baby* went away. ✧ This sense of *baby* is common in song lyrics. **b** — used as an informal way of addressing a lover, friend, etc.; used especially by men to address women and by women to address men ▪ I missed you, *baby*. ✧ This sense of *baby* is sometimes used in a very informal way by men to address an attractive woman. ▪ Hey *baby*, nice car! Using *baby* to address someone you do not know well may cause offense.
4 : something that someone has created and developed with special personal attention or interest ▪ This project is my *baby*.
hold the baby see ¹HOLD
throw out the baby with the bathwater *informal* **:** to get rid of something you want while trying to get rid of something you do not want ▪ If you ignore her message because you don't like the way she presents it, you will be *throwing out the baby with the bathwater*.
– ba•by•hood /ˈbeɪbiˌhʊd/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ We watched him grow from *babyhood* to adulthood. **– ba•by•ish** /ˈbeɪbiɪʃ/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] ▪ *babyish* behavior/toys

²baby *adj, always used before a noun* **:** very small **:** much smaller than usual ▪ a *baby* grand piano ▪ *baby* carrots/vegetables ▪ Take *baby* steps.

³baby *verb* **-bies; -bied; -by•ing** [+ *obj*]
1 : to treat (someone) like a baby **:** to be kind or too kind to (someone) ▪ That boy will never learn to stand up for himself if you don't stop *babying* him. ▪ I ***babied myself*** [=*pampered myself*] with a trip to the spa.
2 : to operate or treat (something) in a very careful and gentle way ▪ *baby* a car ▪ It looked like he was *babying* his injured foot.

baby blue *noun, pl* **~ blues**
1 [*noncount*] **:** a very light blue color
2 *baby blues* [*plural*] *informal* **:** blue eyes ▪ She gazed into his *baby blues*.
3 *baby blues* [*plural*] *informal* **:** a feeling of sadness that a woman has after giving birth to a baby ▪ She had a bad case of the *baby blues*. — compare POSTPARTUM DEPRESSION
– baby blue *adj* ▪ He was wearing *baby blue* pajamas.

baby boom *noun, pl* **~ booms** [*count*] **:** a time when there is a great increase in the number of babies born ▪ There was a *baby boom* in the U.S. after World War II.
– baby boomer *noun, pl* **~ -ers** [*count*] ▪ a television program that is popular among *baby boomers* [=people who were born during the baby boom after World War II]

baby buggy *noun, pl* **~ -gies** [*count*]
1 *US* **:** BABY CARRIAGE
2 *Brit* **:** STROLLER

baby carriage *noun, pl* **~ -riag•es** [*count*] *US* **:** a vehicle in which a baby lies while someone pushes it from place to place — called also (*US*) *baby buggy*, (*Brit*) *pram*

baby fat *noun* [*noncount*] *US* **:** the extra fat that a healthy baby or young child has ▪ Their little boy still has his *baby fat*. — called also (*Brit*) *puppy fat*

ba•by•sit /ˈbeɪbiˌsɪt/ *verb* **-sits; -sat** /-ˌsæt/; **-sit•ting :** to take care of a child while the child's parents are away [+ *obj*] She *babysits* their kids on Saturday nights. [*no obj*] She *babysits* (for my wife and me) on Saturday nights.
– ba•by•sit•ter *noun, pl* **-ters** [*count*] ▪ Did you pay the *babysitter*?

baby talk *noun* [*noncount*] **:** the speech used by very young children who are learning to talk or by adults who are speaking to young children

baby tooth *noun, pl* **~ teeth** [*count*] **:** a tooth from the first set of teeth that a child develops — called also *milk tooth*

bac•cy /ˈbæki/ *noun* [*noncount*] *Brit, informal* **:** TOBACCO

bach•e•lor /ˈbætʃələ/ *noun, pl* **-lors** [*count*]
1 : a man who is not married; *especially* **:** a man who has

never been married ▪ an ***eligible bachelor*** [=an unmarried man who is regarded as a desirable husband] ▪ a ***confirmed bachelor*** [=a man who has been a bachelor for a long time and who shows no interest in marrying] ▪ his apartment is a typical ***bachelor pad*** [=a typical apartment of an unmarried man] ▪ They threw the groom a ***bachelor party***. [=a party for a man who is about to be married that is usually attended by men only]

2 : a person who has received a bachelor's degree ▪ a *bachelor* of arts

– bach•e•lor•hood /ˈbæʧələ˞ˌhʊd/ *noun* [*noncount*]

bach•e•lor•ette /ˌbæʧələˈrɛt/ *noun, pl* **-ettes** [*count*] *US* : a woman who is not married ▪ They threw the bride a ***bachelorette party***. [=a party for a woman who is about to be married that is usually attended by women only]

bachelor's degree *noun, pl* ~ **-grees** [*count*] : a degree that is given to a student by a college or university usually after four years of study

ba•cil•lus /bəˈsɪləs/ *noun, pl* **-cil•li** /-ˈsɪˌlaɪ/ [*count*] *technical* : a straight rod-shaped bacterium that requires oxygen for growth; *also* : a bacterium that causes disease

[1]back /ˈbæk/ *noun, pl* **backs** [*count*]

1 a : the rear part of the body : the part of the body that is opposite to the stomach and chest and that goes from the neck to the top of the legs ▪ She was carrying her little daughter on her *back*. ▪ He injured his *back*. = He suffered a *back* injury. ▪ She has a pain in the small of her *back*. ▪ an aching *back* ▪ I slapped/patted him on his/the *back* to congratulate him. ▪ He broke his *back* [=*spine*] in a fall. ▪ She stabbed/shot him in the *back*. ▪ He was handcuffed with his hands behind his *back*. — see picture at HUMAN **b** : the part of an animal that is like a person's back ▪ a bird with a spotted *back* ▪ riding on the *back* of a horse/donkey/camel — see also HORSEBACK

2 a : the side or surface of something that is opposite the front or face : the rear side or surface of something — usually singular ▪ the *back* of the head ▪ the *back* of a mirror/spoon ▪ the *back* of the hand/leg/foot ▪ The book has fallen down the *back* of the couch. **b** : the side or surface of something (such as a piece of paper) that is not usually used or seen first — usually singular ▪ She wrote something on the *back* of an envelope. ▪ He signed his name on the *back* of the check. **c** : a place, position, or area that is at or near the rear of something — usually singular ▪ He put the letter in the *back* of the drawer. ▪ The kitchen is at/in the *back* of the house and the living room is at/in the front. ▪ Since our plane was leaving soon we were moved to the front of the line while others remained at the *back*. ▪ Please move to the *back* of the elevator to make room for others.

3 : the part of a chair or seat that supports a person's back ▪ a comfortable chair with a padded *back*

4 a : the section of a book, magazine, etc., that includes the last pages — usually singular ▪ There is an index in the *back* of the book. **b** : the part of a book's cover that can be seen when the book is on a shelf ▪ The title of the book is shown on its *back*. [=*spine*]

5 *sports* : a player in some games (such as soccer and American football) who is positioned behind the front line of players ▪ a defensive *back* — see also FULLBACK, HALFBACK, QUARTERBACK, RUNNING BACK

a pat on the back see [1]PAT

a stab in the back see [1]STAB

at/in the back of your mind : in the part of your mind where thoughts and memories are kept — used to describe ideas, memories, etc., that someone has but that are not usually thought about or not perfectly remembered ▪ The thought of retiring and moving out into the country has been *in the back of her mind* for many years, and now she's finally doing it. ▪ Somewhere *in the back of my mind* I knew I'd met him before.

back is to/against the wall ✧ When *your back is to/against the wall* or *you have your back to/against the wall* you are in a bad position in which you are forced to do something in order to avoid failure. ▪ *With our backs to the wall* we made a last desperate effort to finish the project on time. ▪ We knew that with so little time and money left to finish the project *we had our backs to the wall*.

back to back **1** : with backs opposite or against each other ▪ The soldiers stood *back to back*. **2** : happening one after the other ▪ She won the annual competition two times *back to back*. [=*in a row*] ▪ He's had two victories *back to back*. ▪ I've scheduled two appointments *back to back*. — see also BACK-TO-BACK

back to front *of a piece of clothing* : with the back where the front should be ▪ He accidentally put the sweater on *back to front*. [=*front to back, backwards*]

behind someone's back : without someone's knowledge : in secret ▪ You shouldn't gossip about people *behind their back(s)*. ▪ If you have something to say, why not say it to my face instead of whispering it *behind my back*?! ▪ She ***went behind his back*** and spoke directly to his supervisor.

break the back of : to get control of (something you are trying to stop or defeat) : to greatly weaken or subdue (something) ▪ He says the government's new policies will *break the back of* inflation.

eyes in the back of your head see [1]EYE

get your back up : to become angry or annoyed and want to fight or argue ▪ He *gets his back up* and becomes defensive whenever someone questions his work. — compare PUT SOMEONE'S BACK UP (below)

have someone's back see WATCH SOMEONE'S BACK (below)

in back : in an area at the back of something ▪ There was only room for one passenger in front. The rest of us sat *in back*. [=*in the back*]

in back of *chiefly US* : directly behind (something or someone) ▪ There's a small yard *in back of* the house.

on the back of **1** : because of (something) ▪ Profits have increased *on the back of* [=*on the strength of*] improved international sales. **2** *disapproving* : by using the efforts of (other people) ▪ The company has achieved record profits *on the back of* cheap labor.

on/off your back ✧ Someone who is always or frequently criticizing you or telling you what to do is *on your back* and won't ***get off your back***. ▪ He says his wife is always *on his back* about doing chores around the house. ▪ *Get off my back*! I'm working as hard as I can! ▪ My boss is always criticizing me. I wish I knew some way to *get him off my back*.

on your back ✧ If you are *(flat) on your back* you are lying with your back against the ground, on a bed, etc. ▪ The accident left him (lying) *flat on his back* (in bed) for two weeks. This phrase is sometimes used figuratively. ▪ The stock market has been *flat on its back* [=has been doing very poorly] in recent weeks.

out back (*US*) *or chiefly Brit* ***out the back*** *or* ***round the back*** : in the area behind something (such as a building) ▪ In my youth we didn't have a toilet in the house but there was one *out back*.

put someone's back up : to offend or annoy someone : to make someone angry or ready to argue ▪ I don't want to question his decision because that will just *put his back up*. — compare GET YOUR BACK UP (above)

put your back into : to work very hard at (something) : to put a lot of effort into (something) ▪ If you want to get that floor clean you'll have to *put your back into* it. ▪ You'll really have to *put your back into* this project if you want it to succeed.

scratch someone's back see [1]SCRATCH

see the back of ✧ In British English, to be ***glad/happy (etc.) to see the back of*** someone is to be glad to see someone finally going away. ▪ He's done nothing but make trouble and I'll be *glad to see the back of* him! [=I'll be glad when he has gone]

stab (someone) in the back see [2]STAB

the shirt off your back see SHIRT

turn your back : to turn so that you are facing away from someone ▪ He *turned his back* and walked away from me. — often + *on* ▪ He *turned his back on* me and walked away. — often used figuratively ▪ His former supporters have *turned their backs on* him. [=have abandoned him]

watch someone's back *or* ***have someone's back*** : to protect someone who is doing something that is dangerous or risky ▪ The police officer's partner always *watches his back*. ▪ Don't worry, ***I've got your back***.

watch your back ✧ If people tell you to *watch your back*, they are telling you to be careful. ▪ I hear the boss is in a bad mood this morning, so you'd better *watch your back*.

– back•less /ˈbækləs/ *adj* ▪ a *backless* evening gown

[2]back *adv*

1 a : in, toward, or at the back or rear ▪ The soldiers moved *back* from the front lines. ▪ The police asked the crowd to move/step *back* from the scene of the accident. ▪ He left his friends two miles *back*. ▪ She turned around and looked *back* toward him. ▪ a chapter beginning several pages *back* **b** : to, toward, or in the place where someone or something was previously ▪ He left his home and never went *back*. ▪ I had to

go *back* (to the office) for some papers I had left behind. ▪ It's time to go *back* home. ▪ She took the book off the shelf and forgot to put it *back*. ▪ She left earlier but she should ***be back*** [=*return*] soon.

2 : in or into the past : backward in time ▪ In the opening chapter the author looks *back* on his youth. ▪ an event *back* in the last century; *also* : AGO ▪ It happened several years *back*. ▪ I met him in the city two days *back*.

3 a : to or toward a former state or condition ▪ He has decided to go *back* to private life. [=to return to private life] ▪ Good farming practices were needed to bring the fields *back* (to good condition). [=to restore the fields] **b** : in return or reply ▪ I gave the book to him and he gave it *back* (to me). ▪ He refused to give *back* the borrowed money. ▪ He hit his brother and his brother hit him right *back*. ▪ talk *back* ▪ She refused to take *back* her accusations. **c** — used to describe someone or something that is being held or kept from moving forward or happening ▪ He would have jumped if his friends had not held him *back*. ▪ He vowed that he wouldn't allow poverty to hold/keep him *back*. [=to keep him from succeeding] ▪ She struggled to hold *back* a laugh. [=to keep from laughing] ▪ Landslides set the construction job *back* many days. [=caused the construction job to be delayed many days] **d** — used to describe something that is being kept instead of being given or revealed ▪ They held *back* part of the money. ▪ keep *back* the truth

4 : to or at an angle ▪ The banks slant evenly *back* from the highway. ▪ The doctor told her to ***lie back*** on the couch. [=to lie down on the couch] ▪ When I get home from work I like to just ***sit/lean back*** on the couch and relax.

back of *US, informal* : on the rear side of (something) : BEHIND ▪ There's an old tractor out *back of* [=*in back of*] the barn.

get your own back see *get back* at GET

[3]back *adj, always used before a noun*

1 : of or relating to the back : located at the back ▪ the front door, not the *back* door [=the door at the back of a building] ▪ He keeps his wallet in his *back* pocket. ▪ She likes to sit in the front/first row, not the *back* [=*last*] row. ▪ We came in through the *back* entrance. ▪ the *back* pages [=the last pages] of the newspaper ▪ *back* teeth ▪ a *back* room

2 : far from a central or main area ▪ We drove on the *back* roads instead of the main roads. ▪ a *back* alley

3 : not yet paid : owed from an earlier time ▪ The company owes him several months in *back* pay. ▪ *back* rent

4 : published at an earlier time : no longer current ▪ a *back* issue/number of a magazine

5 *golf* — used to refer to the final 9 holes of an 18-hole golf course ▪ He was two over par on the front nine and three over par on the *back* nine.

[4]back *verb* **backs; backed; back·ing**

1 [+ *obj*] **a** : to give help to (someone) : SUPPORT ▪ I'm *backing* him (against the Establishment) in his struggle for reform. ▪ I'm *backing* him for President. **b** : to bet on (someone or something) ▪ She *backed* the winner of the race and won a lot of money. ▪ The pundits are all *backing* him to become the next President. [=the pundits all think that he will become the next President] **c** : to provide evidence that supports (something) ▪ She *backed* her argument with written evidence. **d** : to provide the money that is needed for (something) ▪ *back* a new company ▪ *back* a Broadway play **e** : to sing or play music that supports (a main singer or musical instrument) ▪ She *backed* the singer on the guitar. — often + *up* ▪ A guitarist *backed up* the singer. — see also BACK UP (below)

2 : to move backward [*no obj*] She *backed* into a parking space. ▪ She *backed* out of the garage. ▪ The dog kept growling but *backed* off/away cautiously. [+ *obj*] Could you *back* [=(more commonly) *back up*] your car a little to give me some room? — sometimes used figuratively ▪ The reporter ***backed her into a corner*** [=put her into a difficult position that was hard to get out of] with his probing questions.

3 [+ *obj*] : to provide (something) with a back ▪ *back* a skirt with stiff material

4 [*no obj*] : to have the back toward something ▪ The house fronts onto Main Street and *backs* onto/on the golf course. [=the back of the house faces the golf course]

back away [*phrasal verb*] : to move away from something or someone by walking backward ▪ The robber pointed a gun at the policeman and told him to *back away* slowly. — often + *from* ▪ The policeman slowly *backed away from* the robber. ▪ She *backed away from* the growling dog. — often used figuratively ▪ The government seems to be *backing away from* its earlier proposal. ▪ She has *backed away from* her controversial position on the death penalty.

back down [*phrasal verb*] : to stop arguing or fighting for something ▪ When threatened with a revolt of its own supporters, the government *backed down*. ▪ The strike is expected to continue because neither side is willing to *back down*. — often + *from* ▪ The government *backed down from* its position. ▪ He'll never *back down from* a fight.

back into [*phrasal verb*] ***back into (something)*** : to become involved in (something) without planning to become involved ▪ He *backed into* the antiques business almost by accident when he sold some old furniture he'd inherited.

back off [*phrasal verb*] **1** : to stop arguing or fighting for something : to back down ▪ He has refused to *back off*. **2** : to decide not to do something that you had agreed to do : to back out ▪ The deal fell through when investors *backed off*. **3** : to stop bothering someone ▪ She was getting irritated, so I *backed off*.

back out [*phrasal verb*] : to decide not to do something that you had agreed to do ▪ The deal fell through when investors *backed out*. — often + *of* ▪ The investors *backed out of* the deal.

back up [*phrasal verb*] **1 a** : to move backward ▪ The car *backed up* slowly. ▪ Could you *back up* a little to give me some room? — sometimes used figuratively ▪ Wait, let's *back up* for a second. [=let's go back to what we were discussing earlier] **b** ***back (a vehicle) up*** *or* ***back up (a vehicle)*** : to move (a vehicle) backward ▪ Could you *back* your car *up* a little to give me some room? **2 a** : to become blocked so that movement or flow is slowed or stopped ▪ Traffic *backed up* for miles because of the accident. ▪ The drain *backed up* [=*clogged*] and had to be unclogged by a plumber. **b** ***back (something) up*** *or* ***back up (something)*** : to cause (something) to become blocked ▪ The accident *backed up* traffic for miles. = Traffic was *backed up* [=(*Brit*) *tailed back*] for miles because of the accident. ▪ The drain was *backed up*. **3** ***back (someone or something) up*** *or* ***back up (someone or something)*** : to give help or support to (someone or something) ▪ I'll *back* you *up* if I think you're right. ▪ She *backed* her argument *up* with written evidence. = Written evidence *backed* her argument *up*. ▪ It's time to *back up* your words with deeds! — see also [4]BACK 1e (above) **4** ***back (something) up*** *or* ***back up (something)*** *computers* : to make a copy of (a computer file or data) to protect it from being lost ▪ Remember to *back up* your work before you log off. — see also BACKUP

back·ache /ˈbækˌeɪk/ *noun, pl* **-aches** : pain in the back [*count*] She has/gets frequent *backaches*. [*noncount*] a patient suffering from *backache* ▪ (*Brit*) She has/gets frequent *backache*.

back and forth *adv*

1 : toward the back and then toward the front : backward and forward ▪ The chair rocked *back and forth*.

2 : between two places or people ▪ The children were shuttled *back and forth* between school and home.

back–and–forth *noun* [*noncount*] : talk or discussion about something ▪ An agreement was finally reached after a lot of *back-and-forth* between the two sides.

back·bench /ˈbækˈbɛnʧ/ *noun, pl* **-bench·es** [*count*] *Brit* : a seat in the British Parliament that is held by an ordinary member ▪ the Prime Minister's supporters on the *backbenches* — often used before another noun ▪ *backbench* conservative MPs — compare FRONT BENCH

– back·bench·er /ˈbækˈbɛnʧɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] ▪ Labour *backbenchers*

back·bit·ing /ˈbækˌbaɪtɪŋ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : unkind talk about someone who is not present ▪ petty *backbiting* among employees

back·board /ˈbækˌboɚd/ *noun, pl* **-boards** [*count*] *basketball* : the board behind the basket

back·bone /ˈbækˌboʊn/ *noun, pl* **-bones**

1 [*count*] : the row of connected bones that go down the middle of the back and protect the spinal cord — called also *spinal column, spine*; see picture at HUMAN

2 [*count*] : the most important or strongest part of something ▪ She is the *backbone* of the family.

3 [*noncount*] : strength and courage ▪ He showed some *backbone* by refusing to compromise his values.

back·break·ing /ˈbækˌbreɪkɪŋ/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : involving very difficult physical work or effort ▪ *backbreaking* work

back burner *noun*

on the back burner *chiefly US* : in the position of something that will not receive immediate attention and action ▪ She put her singing career *on the back burner* to pursue her dream of being a movie star. ▪ The President has put tax reduction *on the back burner* because he has more urgent problems to deal with. — compare FRONT BURNER

back•chat /ˈbækˌʧæt/ *noun* [*noncount*] *Brit, informal* : BACK TALK ▪ Don't give me any *backchat*!

back•cloth /ˈbækˌklɑːθ/ *noun, pl* **-cloths** [*count*] *Brit* : BACKDROP

back•comb /ˈbækˌkoʊm/ *verb* **-combs**; **-combed**; **-comb•ing** [+ *obj*] *chiefly Brit* : to comb (hair) backwards : TEASE ▪ She *backcombs* her hair.

back•date /ˈbækˌdeɪt/ *verb* **-dates**; **-dat•ed**; **-dat•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to give (something) an earlier date than the actual date : ANTEDATE ▪ *backdate* a check

2 : to say that something began or became effective at a date earlier than the current date ▪ an increase in salary *backdated* to the beginning of the year

back door *noun, pl* ~ **doors** [*count*] : a door at the back of a building — often used figuratively ▪ He managed to get into the private club ***through the back door*** [=in a secret or indirect way] because he has a friend who works there.

back•door /ˈbækˈdoɚ/ *adj, always used before a noun* : done in a secret or indirect way ▪ a *backdoor* tax increase

back•drop /ˈbækˌdrɑːp/ *noun, pl* **-drops** [*count*]

1 : a painted cloth that is hung across the back of a stage

2 : the scene or scenery that is in the background ▪ The mountains provided a perfect *backdrop* for the wedding photos.

3 : the setting or conditions within which something happens ▪ The novel unfolds against a *backdrop* of war. ▪ The city provides the *backdrop* for the love story.

-backed *combining form*

1 : having a particular kind of back ▪ a broad-*backed* weight lifter ▪ a high-*backed* chair ▪ a foam-*backed* mattress

2 : supported by a particular group, organization, etc. ▪ a UN-*backed* peace plan ▪ a government-*backed* antismoking campaign

back•er /ˈbækɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : a person or group that gives support to someone or something ▪ the presidential candidate's *backers* ▪ *backers* of the plan proposed by the committee

back•field /ˈbækˌfiːld/ *noun, pl* **-fields** *American football*

1 [*singular*] : the area of the field that is behind the line of scrimmage ▪ a tackle made in the *backfield*

2 [*count*] : the players who line up behind the line of scrimmage ▪ The team has a strong *backfield*.

back•fire /ˈbækˌfajɚ/ *verb* **-fires**; **-fired**; **-fir•ing** [*no obj*]

1 *of an engine or vehicle* : to make a loud sound when fuel is not burned properly ▪ The car *backfired*.

2 : to have the opposite result of what was desired or expected ▪ Our plans *backfired* (on us).

– **backfire** *noun, pl* **-fires** [*count*] ▪ an engine *backfire*

back•gam•mon /ˈbækˌgæmən/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a board game for two players in which the players throw dice and try to move all of their pieces around and off the board

back•ground /ˈbækˌgraʊnd/ *noun, pl* **-grounds**

1 [*count*] **a** : the part of a scene or picture that is farthest from the viewer : the part of a scene that is behind a main figure or object in a painting, photograph, etc. ▪ Objects in the foreground are drawn larger than those in the *background*. ▪ a photograph of a house with mountains in the *background* ▪ The mountains provided a perfect *background* [=*backdrop*] for the wedding photos. ▪ *background* scenery **b** : a surface or color that is behind or around something (such as a printed design) ▪ red letters printed on a white *background* ▪ a *background* color

2 [*singular*] **a** : a position that attracts little attention ▪ He was a shy man who always tried to keep/stay ***in the background***. [=tried to avoid attracting attention] ▪ The war has pushed all other issues ***into the background***. [=has made all other issues less important] ▪ An ethnic conflict that was simmering away *in the background* finally erupted into civil war. **b** — used to describe something that occurs without requiring attention while something else is also occurring ▪ The software was automatically updated ***in the background*** while we continued to work on the data. **c** — used to describe something that is heard while something else is being listened to ▪ It was hard to enjoy the music because I could hear a dog barking ***in the background***.

3 a [*count*] : the events and conditions that help to explain why something happens : the situation in which something occurs — usually singular ▪ We learned about the social and economic *background* of the American Civil War. ▪ The meetings took place ***against a background*** of increasing tension. **b** [*noncount*] : information needed to understand a problem or situation ▪ Let me provide you with some *background* on this problem. — often used before another noun ▪ *background* information

4 [*count*] : the experiences, knowledge, education, etc., in a person's past ▪ What is your academic *background*? ▪ We need to know more about his *background* before we hire him. ▪ He and his wife come from similar social *backgrounds*. [=they were raised in similar social environments] ▪ His writing is influenced by his ethnic *background*. — often used before another noun ▪ They ran a *background* check to make sure the job candidate had no criminal record.

background music *noun* [*noncount*] : music that is played in a movie, television show, etc., to go along with and add to the story or mood

background noise *noun* [*noncount*] : undesired sound that is heard in a radio broadcast, a tape recording, etc. ▪ The recording had a lot of *background noise*.

back•hand /ˈbækˌhænd/ *noun, pl* **-hands** [*count*] *sports*

1 : a way of hitting a ball in tennis and similar games in which the back of the hand holding the racket is turned in the direction of the ball ▪ She has a good *backhand* but a weak forehand. — often used before another noun ▪ a *backhand* shot

2 : a catch in baseball and similar games that is made on the side of the body that is opposite the hand being used — often used before another noun ▪ The shortstop made a nice *backhand* catch on a line drive.

– **backhand** *verb* **-hands**; **-hand•ed**; **-hand•ing** [+ *obj*] ▪ She *backhanded* the ball over the net. ▪ The shortstop *backhanded* the ball and threw to first for the out.

back•hand•ed /ˈbækˈhændəd/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

1 : not direct or sincere ▪ We were disappointed by his *backhanded* apology. ▪ She paid me a ***backhanded compliment*** [=a compliment that was not really a compliment at all] when she said my work was "surprisingly good." ▪ He paid me a *backhanded compliment* [=an indirect compliment] by imitating my style.

2 *sports* : using or done with a backhand ▪ a *backhanded* [=*backhand*] shot ▪ a *backhanded* [=*backhand*] catch

back•hand•er /ˈbækˈhændɚ/ *noun, pl* **-hand•ers** [*count*]

1 *sports* : a backhanded shot ▪ She hit a *backhander* into the net.

2 *Brit, informal* : [1]BRIBE

back•hoe /ˈbækˌhoʊ/ *noun, pl* **-hoes** [*count*] *US* : a large machine that digs into the ground with a metal scoop — see picture at CONSTRUCTION

back•ing /ˈbækɪŋ/ *noun, pl* **-ings**

1 [*count*] : something that forms a back ▪ The tape has an adhesive *backing*.

2 [*noncount*] : support or aid ▪ The project has received financial *backing* from several investors.

3 [*noncount*] : the music that is played along with someone who is singing or playing the main tune : the music that accompanies someone — often used before another noun ▪ a *backing* group ▪ *backing* music

back•lash /ˈbækˌlæʃ/ *noun, pl* **-lash•es** [*count*] : a strong public reaction against something ▪ a *backlash* against feminism ✧ A backlash occurs when many people react to an event, movement, etc., in a way that is opposite to its intended effect.

back•log /ˈbækˌlɑːg/ *noun, pl* **-logs** [*count*] : a large number of jobs that are waiting to be finished ▪ We have a huge *backlog* of orders to be filled.

back matter *noun* [*noncount*] : the pages at the end of a book following the main part ▪ A list of geographical names appears in the *back matter* of the dictionary. — compare FRONT MATTER

back of beyond *noun*

the back of beyond *informal* : a place that is very far from other places and people : a remote place ▪ He lives by himself in a cabin out in *the back of beyond*. [=*the boondocks*]

back–of–the–envelope *adj, always used before a noun, informal* : done to provide a rough idea of something ▪ I can't tell you the exact amount, but my *back-of-the-envelope* [=*rough*] calculation indicates a cost of about $300,000.

back order *noun, pl* ~ **-ders** *chiefly US, business* : a prod-

uct that has been ordered but not sent to the customer because it is not yet available [*count*] The book I want to buy is a *back order* and won't be shipped for three weeks. [*noncount*] The book I want to buy is ***on back order*** and won't be shipped for three weeks.

– **back–or•der** *verb* **-ders**; **-dered**; **-der•ing** [+ *obj*] ▪ The book I want to buy has been *back-ordered* and won't be shipped for three weeks.

[1]back•pack /ˈbækˌpæk/ *noun, pl* **-packs** [*count*] *chiefly US* : a bag for carrying things that has two shoulder straps and is carried on the back — called also (*chiefly US*) *knapsack*, (*chiefly Brit*) *rucksack*; see picture at CAMPING

[2]backpack *verb* **-packs**; **-packed**; **-pack•ing** [*no obj*] : to hike or travel with a backpack ▪ After college, she *backpacked* through/around Europe. ▪ We're planning to ***go backpacking*** in a national park this summer.

– **back•pack•er** *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]

back passage *noun, pl* ~ **-sag•es** [*count*] *Brit* : the part of the body through which solid waste passes — used as a polite way to avoid saying the word "rectum"

back•ped•al /ˈbækˌpɛdl̩/ *verb* **-ped•als**; *US* **-ped•aled** *or chiefly Brit* **-ped•alled**; *US* **-ped•al•ing** *or chiefly Brit* **-ped•al•ling** [*no obj*] : to move backward with quick steps ▪ The outfielder *backpedaled* a few steps to catch the fly ball. — sometimes used figuratively ▪ When threatened with a revolt of its own supporters, the government *backpedaled* [=*retreated, backtracked*] from its previous position.

back•rest /ˈbækˌrɛst/ *noun, pl* **-rests** [*count*] : a support for a person to lean back against while sitting ▪ a chair with a cushioned *backrest*

back•seat /ˈbækˈsi:t/ *noun, pl* **-seats** [*count*] : a seat in the back of something (such as a car)

take a backseat : to be or become less important, active, or powerful — often + *to* ▪ He refuses to *take a backseat to* anyone. [=he refuses to let anyone have more power or control than he has]

backseat driver *noun, pl* ~ **-ers** [*count*]

1 : a passenger in a car who gives driving advice to the driver

2 : someone who gives unwanted advice or who tries to control something that is supposed to be controlled by another person ▪ Several members of the board of directors have accused him of being a *backseat driver*.

back•side /ˈbækˌsaɪd/ *noun, pl* **-sides** [*count*] *informal* : the part of the body that a person sits on : BUTTOCKS ▪ She slid down the snowy hill on her *backside*. [=*behind, bottom*]

back•slap•ping /ˈbækˌslæpɪŋ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : enthusiastic praise or congratulations ▪ We had expected the candidates to criticize each other, but instead they engaged in mutual *backslapping*.

– **back•slap•per** /ˈbækˌslæpɚ/ *noun, pl* **-pers** [*count*]

– **backslapping** *adj, always used before a noun* ▪ *backslapping* businessmen

back•slash /ˈbækˌslæʃ/ *noun, pl* **-slash•es** [*count*] : a mark \ that is used for separating written items in computer file names, commands, etc.

back•slide /ˈbækˌslaɪd/ *verb* **-slides**; **-slid** /-ˌslɪd/; **-sliding** [*no obj*] : to start doing something bad again after you have stopped it ▪ I was afraid of *backsliding* [=*relapsing*] into my old habits. ▪ Smokers who quit often *backslide* within a year.

– **back•slid•er** /ˈbækˌslaɪdɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]

back•space /ˈbækˌspeɪs/ *noun, pl* **-spac•es** [*count*] : a key that is pressed on a typewriter or computer keyboard to move back toward the beginning of a line of text — usually singular ▪ press the *backspace*

– **backspace** *verb* **-spaces**; **-spaced**; **-spac•ing** [*no obj*] ▪ He *backspaced* to the beginning of the line.

back•spin /ˈbækˌspɪn/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a backward spinning motion of a ball ▪ put *backspin* on the ball — compare TOPSPIN

back•stab•bing /ˈbækˌstæbɪŋ/ *noun* [*noncount*] *US* : harmful and unfair things that are said or done to hurt the reputation of someone ▪ She was hurt by her former friend's *backstabbing*.

– **back•stab•ber** /ˈbækˌstæbɚ/ *noun, pl* **-bers** [*count*] ▪ She accused her former friend of being a *backstabber*.

– **backstabbing** *adj, always used before a noun* ▪ a *backstabbing* liar

back•stage /ˈbækˌsteɪʤ/ *adv* : behind the stage of a theater ▪ After the show, we went *backstage* to meet the band.

– **backstage** *adj, always used before a noun* ▪ the *backstage* [=*private*] lives of celebrities ▪ a ***backstage pass*** [=a card that gives permission to go backstage and usually to meet the performers]

back•stairs /ˈbækˌsteɚz/ *adj, always used before a noun, chiefly Brit, informal* : done in a secret and usually improper way ▪ a *backstairs* deal

back•stop /ˈbækˌstɑ:p/ *noun, pl* **-stops**

1 [*count*] *baseball* **a** : a fence or screen that is placed behind the catcher to prevent the ball from rolling away ▪ The pitch got past the catcher and rolled all the way to the *backstop*. **b** *informal* : CATCHER ▪ a talented *backstop*

2 [*singular*] *Brit* : something that is kept so that it can be used if it is needed ▪ kept some gold as a *backstop* in case the value of the local currency collapsed

back•straight /ˈbækˌstreɪt/ *noun, pl* **-straights** [*count*] *Brit* : BACKSTRETCH

back•street /ˈbækˈstri:t/ *noun, pl* **-streets** [*count*] : a street that is away from the main streets ▪ a London *backstreet*

back•stretch /ˈbækˌstrɛʧ/ *noun, pl* **-stretch•es** [*count*] : the far side of a racetrack : the side of a track that is opposite to the homestretch ▪ The horses are in the *backstretch*. — called also (*Brit*) *backstraight*

back•stroke /ˈbækˌstroʊk/ *noun* [*singular*] : a way of swimming in which a person floats in the water facing upward while kicking the legs and rotating the arms ▪ She got into the pool and began to do the *backstroke*.; *also* : a race in which the swimmers do the backstroke ▪ She won the 50-meter *backstroke*.

back•swing /ˈbækˌswɪŋ/ *noun, pl* **-swings** [*count*] : a movement of the arm backwards before swinging something (such as a club, bat, or racket) ▪ a golfer with a short *backswing*

back talk *noun* [*noncount*] *US, informal* : rude speech in reply to someone who should be spoken to with respect ▪ Don't give me any *back talk*! — called also (*Brit*) *backchat*

[1]back–to–back *adj*

1 : facing in opposite directions and often touching at the back ▪ *back-to-back* seats

2 : coming one after another in time ▪ *back-to-back* victories ▪ *back-to-back* appointments — see also *back to back* at [1]BACK

– **back to back** *adv* ▪ They were standing *back to back*.

[2]back–to–back *noun, pl* **-backs** [*count*] *Brit* : a house that is connected in a row with other houses on each side and with a similar row of houses behind it

back•track /ˈbækˌtræk/ *verb* **-tracks**; **-tracked**; **-tracking** [*no obj*]

1 : to go back over a course or path ▪ The hikers realized they had made a wrong turn and would have to *backtrack*.

2 : to return to something that was mentioned before ▪ Let me *backtrack* for a moment and pick up our previous conversation.

3 : to completely change what you think or say about something ▪ Voters lost confidence in him when he *backtracked* on the issues. [=when he reversed his position on the issues]

back•up /ˈbækˌʌp/ *noun, pl* **-ups**

1 a [*count*] : a person or thing that can be used to replace or support another person or thing ▪ His role on the team is to be a *backup* to the regular quarterback. ▪ We have an extra radio as a *backup* in case this one doesn't work. — often used before another noun ▪ a *backup* quarterback ▪ We need a ***backup plan*** in case of emergency. **b** [*noncount*] : help or support provided by additional people or things ▪ The policeman called for *backup* [=called for other police to come and help him] because the suspect was carrying a gun. ▪ We have an extra radio for *backup*. ▪ He provides *backup* for the regular quarterback.

2 [*count*] *US* : a situation in which the flow of something (such as traffic) becomes blocked ▪ There was a traffic *backup* [=(*Brit*) *tailback*] for miles on the road because of the accident. ▪ There was a *backup* [=*blockage*] in the drain.

3 [*noncount*] : a musical part that is sung to support the main singer ▪ She sang *backup* on his CD. — often used before another noun ▪ a *backup* singer

4 [*count*] : a copy of information stored on a computer ▪ Be sure to make a *backup* of your work. — often used before another noun ▪ a *backup* file/copy; *also* : the act or process of making such a copy ▪ It may take some time for the *backup* to be complete. — see also *back up* at [4]BACK

[1]back•ward (*chiefly US*) /ˈbækwɚd/ *or* **back•wards** /ˈbækwɚdz/ *adv*

1 : toward the back : to or toward what is behind ▪ a sudden movement *backward*, not forward ▪ I heard a noise behind

me and glanced *backward*. • He pushed the throttle *backward*. • She took a small step *backward*. • Can you skate *backward*?

2 : opposite to the usual way : in reverse • Count *backward* from 10.

3 : toward the past • a journey *backward* in time • The narrative moves *backward* and forward in time.

4 : to or toward a less advanced state or condition : toward a worse state • His new job, which paid less and had fewer responsibilities, felt like a step *backward*.

bend over backward *or* ***lean over backward*** *also* ***fall over backward*** : to make a great effort to help someone or to reach agreement with someone • The salesman said he would *bend over backward* to make the deal. • I've *leaned over backward* to please you—and you haven't even said thank you!

know something backward and forward see ¹KNOW

²backward *adj*

1 a : directed or turned toward the back • a *backward* glance • a *backward* baseball cap • a sudden *backward* movement

b : done backward • a *backward* somersault

2 [*more ~; most ~*] : behind others : not as advanced as others in learning or development • (*old-fashioned*) He was a *backward* pupil who struggled to keep up in school. • a technologically *backward* village that has no running water

– **back•ward•ly** *adv* – **back•ward•ness** *noun* [*noncount*] • the technological *backwardness* of the village

back•ward–look•ing /ˈbækwəd,lʊkɪŋ/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] *disapproving* : relating to the past • *backward-looking* [=*old-fashioned*] ideas/plans : not planning for the future • *backward-looking* [=*hidebound*] engineers/politicians/industrialists — opposite FORWARD-LOOKING

back•wa•ter /ˈbæk,wɑːtɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ters** [*count*]

1 : a part of a river where the water moves slowly because it is away from the main part of the river

2 : a quiet place (such as a town or village) where there is little activity, excitement, progress, etc. • The once sleepy *backwater* is now a thriving city. • a cultural *backwater*

back•woods /ˈbækˈwʊdz/ *noun* [*plural*] : an area that is far from cities • She grew up in the *backwoods* of Maine. • a *backwoods* politician [=a politician in a remote area far from cities]

back•woods•man /ˌbækˈwʊdzmən/ *noun, pl* **-men** /-mən/ [*count*]

1 : a man who lives in the backwoods

2 *Brit* : a male member of the House of Lords who rarely attends it and who typically lives in a rural area far from London

back•yard /ˈbækˈjɑɚd/ *noun, pl* **-yards**

1 [*count*] : an area in back of a house; *especially, US* : an area of grass behind someone's house • We spent the evening relaxing in the *backyard*.

2 [*noncount*] : the general area near and around someone's home • For fun in the sun this summer, look no farther than your own *backyard*. [=*neighborhood*] • Residents grew anxious when they learned the new prison would be located in their *backyard*. [=would be located near their homes]

– **backyard** *adj, always used before a noun* • a *backyard* barbecue • a *backyard* garden

ba•con /ˈbeɪkən/ *noun* [*noncount*] : thin strips of salted and smoked meat from the sides and the back of a pig • We ate *bacon* and eggs for breakfast. • a slice of *bacon* = (*Brit*) a rasher of *bacon* — often used before another noun • *bacon* fat

bring home the bacon *informal* : to earn the money that is needed to live • He worked hard all week to *bring home the bacon* for his family.

save someone's bacon see ¹SAVE

bacteria *plural of* BACTERIUM

bac•te•ri•ol•o•gy /bækˌtiriˈɑːlədʒi/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the scientific study of bacteria

– **bac•te•ri•o•log•i•cal** /bækˌtirijəˈlɑːdʒɪkəl/ *adj* – **bac•te•ri•ol•o•gist** /bækˌtiriˈɑːlədʒɪst/ *noun, pl* **-gists** [*count*]

bac•te•ri•um /bækˈtirijəm/ *noun, pl* **-te•ria** /-ˈtirijə/ [*count*] : any one of a group of very small living things that often cause disease — usually plural • Keep the wound clean and dry to prevent the growth of *bacteria*.

– **bac•te•ri•al** /bækˈtirijəl/ *adj*

¹bad /ˈbæd/ *adj* **worse** /ˈwəs/; **worst** /ˈwəst/

1 a : low or poor in quality • a *bad* repair job • *bad* work • The house is in *bad* condition/shape. **b** : not correct or proper • *bad* manners • *bad* [=*incorrect, faulty*] grammar • a letter written in *bad* French • *bad* spelling • a *bad* check [=a check that cannot be cashed] — see also BAD LANGUAGE

2 a : not pleasant, pleasing, or enjoyable • He had a *bad* day at the office. • I was having a *bad* dream. • She made a very *bad* impression on her future colleagues. • The food tastes *bad*. • The flower smells *bad*. • He has *bad* breath. [=breath that smells bad] • We've been having *bad* weather lately. • The medicine left a *bad* taste in his mouth. • It feels *bad* [=*uncomfortable, painful*] to stretch out my arm. • I look *bad* in this hat. = This hat looks *bad* on me. • That hat doesn't look *bad* on you. [=that hat looks good on you] **b** : having, marked by, or relating to problems, troubles, etc. • good and *bad* news • They have remained together in good times and *bad* (times). • It's a *bad* time for business right now. • a *bad* omen • *bad* luck/fortune • Things are looking pretty *bad* for us at this point. • I have a *bad* feeling about this. — see also BAD BLOOD, BAD NEWS **c** : not adequate or suitable • I couldn't take a picture because the lighting was *bad*. • It's a *bad* day for a picnic. • She made a *bad* marriage. • Is this a *bad* moment/time to have a word with you? **d** : not producing or likely to produce a good result • a *bad* deal • a *bad* risk • a *bad* idea/plan • The plan has its good points and its *bad* points. • a ***bad debt*** [=a debt that will not be paid] • a ***bad loan*** [=a loan that will not be repaid] **e** : expressing criticism or disapproval • The movie got *bad* reviews.

3 a : not healthy : marked or affected by injury or disease • His health is pretty *bad*. = He's in pretty *bad* health. • The patient was pretty *bad* [=*ill, sick*] last week and even *worse* yesterday but is doing better now. • He came home early because he was feeling pretty *bad*. [=he wasn't feeling well] • My father has a *bad* back/leg. [=a back/leg that is always or often painful] • She has *bad* eyesight/hearing. • *bad* teeth **b** : causing harm or trouble • a *bad* diet • a *bad* influence • ***bad cholesterol*** [=a type of cholesterol that can cause serious health problems when there is too much of it in your blood] — often + *for* • Eating too much can be *bad for* you. = It can be *bad for* you to eat too much. • Eating all that candy is *bad for* your teeth. • Watching too much TV is *bad for* children.

4 a : not morally good or right : morally evil or wrong • a *bad* person • *bad* conduct/behavior • a man of *bad* character • *bad* intentions/deeds • It's hard to tell the good guys from the ***bad guys*** in this movie. — see also BAD FAITH **b** : not behaving properly • a *bad* dog • I'm afraid your son has been a very *bad* [=*naughty*] boy. — see also BAD BOY

5 a : not skillful : not doing or able to do something well • a *bad* musician • a *bad* doctor • She was pretty *bad* in that movie. [=she did not act well] — often + *at* • a doctor who's *bad at* treating nervous patients • He's very/really *bad at* expressing his true feelings. **b** : having a tendency not to do something — + *about* • He's *bad about* getting to work on time. [=he often fails to get to work on time] • I'm very *bad about* remembering people's birthdays. [=I often forget people's birthdays]

6 a : not happy or pleased : feeling regret or guilt about something • I ***feel bad*** about what happened. [=I regret what happened] • She *felt bad* that she forgot to call. = She *felt bad* about forgetting to call. **b** : not cheerful or calm • She's in a *bad* mood. [=an angry mood] • He has a *bad* temper. [=he's bad-tempered; he becomes angry easily]

7 : serious or severe • She's in *bad* trouble. • He has a *bad* cough/cold. • That bruise looks *bad*: you'd better see a doctor about it. • How *bad* is the pain?

8 : no longer good to eat or drink : not fresh • the smell of *bad* fish • Is the milk still good or has it ***gone bad***? [=*spoiled*]

9 ***bad•der; bad•dest*** *chiefly US, informal* **a** : very good • He's the *baddest* guitar player you'll ever hear! **b** : very tough or dangerous • Don't mess around with him. He's a *bad* dude.

a bad job see JOB

a bad lot see LOT

bad apple see APPLE

come to a bad end see ¹END

from bad to worse : from a bad state or condition to an even worse state or condition • The company has been struggling for years, and things have recently gone *from bad to worse*.

in a bad way : in a bad condition • Without enough funding, public services are *in a* pretty *bad way* right now. • The patient was *in a bad way* last week but is doing better now.

in someone's bad books see ¹BOOK

not bad : fairly good or quite good • All things considered, she's *not* a *bad* singer. [=she's a pretty good singer] • "How are you?" "*Not* (too/so) *bad*, thanks. And you?"

B

too bad **1** — used to show that you are sorry or feel bad about something ▪ It's *too bad* [=*unfortunate*] that John and Mary are getting divorced. = It's *too bad* about John and Mary getting divorced. [=I'm sorry to hear that John and Mary are getting divorced] ▪ "I won't be able to come to the party." "(That's) *Too bad*. I was hoping you'd be there." **2** — used in an ironic way to show that you are not sorry or do not feel bad about something ▪ "But I need your help!" "(That's just) *Too bad*."

with bad grace see [1]GRACE

– **bad•ness** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the *badness* of his behavior ▪ the *badness* [=*severity*] of his injuries ▪ There's more goodness than *badness* in him.

[2]bad *adv* **worse**; **worst** *US, informal* : BADLY ▪ She was struggling when she first started the job, but she's not doing so *bad* now. [=she's doing fairly well now] ▪ He hasn't succeeded because he doesn't want it *bad* enough. ▪ He cut himself real *bad*. [=very badly] ▪ I need a vacation and I need it *bad*. [=I need it very much] ▪ "Is he in love with her?" "Oh yeah, he's ***got it bad***" [=he's extremely in love with her]

bad off *US* **1** : having little money ▪ They're pretty *bad off* [=they don't have enough money] now that he's lost his job. ▪ We're not rich, but we're not too *bad off* (for money). [=we're not poor] **2** : in a bad or difficult situation or condition ▪ When I heard how *bad off* they were, I asked if I could do anything to help. ▪ This state isn't too *bad off* compared to other parts of the country.

[3]bad *noun*

1 [*noncount*] : morally bad forces or influences : EVIL ▪ There's more good than *bad* in him. ▪ We need to teach our children the difference between good and *bad*.

2 *the bad* **a** [*singular*] : the unpleasant things that happen to people ▪ You have to ***take the good with the bad*** [=you have to accept the bad things that happen to you as well as the good things] **b** [*singular*] : things that are morally wrong ▪ teaching children the difference between the good and *the bad* **c** [*plural*] : morally bad people ▪ He believes that the good go to heaven when they die and *the bad* go to hell.

bad•ass /ˈbædˌæs/ *adj, always used before a noun, chiefly US, informal + sometimes offensive*

1 : likely to cause trouble : tough and dangerous ▪ a *badass* criminal

2 : very skillful or impressive ▪ a *badass* musician

– **badass** *noun, pl* **-ass•es** [*count*] He acted tough and thought of himself as a *badass*.

bad blood *noun* [*noncount*] : feelings of dislike between two people or groups ▪ There's been a lot of *bad blood* between them since their quarrel.

bad boy *noun, pl* **~ boys** [*count*] : a man who says or does things that shock other people; *especially* : a young and successful man who does things in a way that is very different from the usual way ▪ He has become known as the *bad boy* of the American television industry.

bad•die *or* **bad•dy** /ˈbædi/ *noun, pl* **-dies** [*count*] *informal* : a bad person in a book, movie, etc. : VILLAIN ▪ He plays one of the good guys in his latest film and defeats all the *baddies*. [=*bad guys*]

bade *past tense of* [1]BID

bad faith *noun* [*noncount*] : lack of honesty in dealing with other people ▪ She accused her landlord of *bad faith* [=*dishonesty*] because he had promised to paint the apartment but never did it. — compare GOOD FAITH

in bad faith : in a dishonest and improper way ▪ She signed the contract *in bad faith*. [=with no intention of doing what it said she would do]

badge /ˈbæʤ/ *noun, pl* **badg•es** [*count*]

1 : a small object (such as a tag, pin, or metal shield) that is worn or held up by a person so that it can be easily seen, that has writing (such as a person's name) and often a picture on it, and that shows who the person is ▪ The policeman flashed his *badge*. ▪ Don't forget to wear your name *badge*. ▪ The receptionist glanced at my visitor's *badge*.

2 : a cloth patch that can be sewn onto clothing and that is awarded to a person (such as a Boy Scout or Girl Scout) for doing something ▪ She earned 10 merit *badges* in scouting.

3 *Brit* : [1]BUTTON 2 ▪ She was wearing a *badge* that read "Support your local library."

4 : something that represents or is a sign of something else ▪ She viewed her failures as a *badge* of humanity. ▪ He wore his ethnic heritage as a ***badge of honor/pride*** [=he was proud of his ethnic heritage and did not try to hide it]

[1]bad•ger /ˈbæʤɚ/ *noun, pl* **-gers** [*count*] : a type of animal that lives in the ground and has short thick legs and long claws on its front feet



badger

[2]bad•ger *verb* **-gers**; **-gered**; **-ger•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to bother or annoy (someone) with many comments or questions ▪ The celebrity was being *badgered* [=*pestered*] by reporters.

2 : to ask or tell someone again and again to do something ▪ He's been *badgering* [=*nagging, pestering*] me to clean the garage for months. ▪ She finally *badgered* me into cutting my hair.

bad•lands /ˈbædˌlændz/ *noun* [*plural*] : a region in the U.S. where weather has worn away rocks into strange shapes and where there are very few plants ▪ the *badlands* of South Dakota

bad language *noun* [*noncount*] : offensive language : dirty language ▪ She scolded the children for using *bad language*.

bad•ly /ˈbædli/ *adv* **worse** /ˈwɚs/; **worst** /ˈwɚst/

1 : in a bad manner ▪ We played *badly*. ▪ The car ran *badly*. ▪ He played *badly* but I played even *worse*. ▪ The failure reflects *badly* on the administration. ▪ The child behaved *badly*. ▪ a *badly* planned project

2 a : very much : to a great degree ▪ She wanted the job *badly*. ▪ I'm *badly* in need of a vacation. ▪ We miss you *badly*. **b** : severely or seriously ▪ Was she hurt *badly*? ▪ His fingers were *badly* frozen.

badly off **1** : having little money ▪ We were so *badly off* [=*poor, broke*] we couldn't afford a bus ticket. ▪ Thanks to the money my uncle left me, I'm not *badly off*. [=I'm pretty well off] **2** : in bad condition ▪ I felt unwell, but I wasn't so *badly off* that I had to stay home from work.

badly off for *Brit* : having a strong need for (something or someone) ▪ The team was *badly off for* young players.

not badly : fairly or quite well ▪ "How are you doing?" "*Not* too/so *badly*, thanks. And you?"

think badly of : to have a bad or low opinion of (someone) ▪ Will you *think badly of* me if I take the last cookie?

bad•min•ton /ˈbædˌmɪtn̩/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a game in which a light feathered object (called a shuttlecock) is hit over a net by players using light rackets — see picture at RACKET

bad–mouth /ˈbædˌmaʊθ/ *verb* **-mouths**; **-mouthed**; **-mouth•ing** [+ *obj*] : to say bad things about (someone or something) : to criticize (someone or something) ▪ She refuses to *bad-mouth* her colleagues.

bad news *noun* [*singular*] *informal* : a bad, unpleasant, or dangerous person or thing ▪ Stay away from him—he's *bad news*. ▪ "That drug is *bad news*," she warned.

bad–tempered *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : easily annoyed or angered : ILL-TEMPERED ▪ a *bad-tempered* old man

[1]baf•fle /ˈbæfəl/ *verb* **baf•fles**; **baf•fled**; **baf•fling** [+ *obj*] : to confuse (someone) completely ▪ Her behavior *baffles* [=*bewilders*] me. ▪ I was *baffled* by many of the scientific terms used in the article.

– **baffled** *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] ▪ a *baffled* look [=a look that shows confusion] ▪ His explanation left me feeling even more *baffled* [=*confused*] than I had felt before. – **baf•fle•ment** /ˈbæfəlmənt/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ I couldn't hide my complete *bafflement* at her strange behavior. – **baffling** *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] ▪ It's completely *baffling* to me how she can behave like that! ▪ a *baffling* array of choices – **baf•fling•ly** /ˈbæflɪŋli/ *adv* [*more ~; most ~*] ▪ *bafflingly* strange behavior

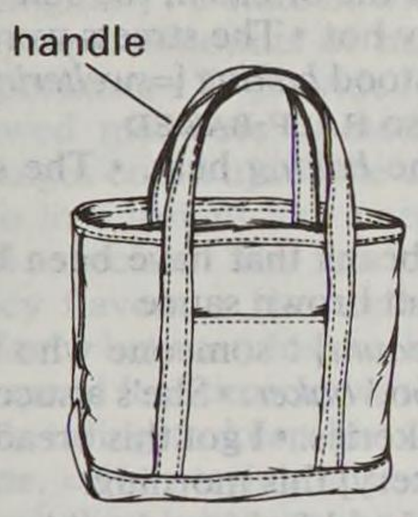
[2]baffle *noun, pl* **baffles** [*count*] *technical* : a device (such as a wall or screen) that is used to control the flow of something (such as a fluid, light, or sound)

[1]bag /ˈbæg/ *noun, pl* **bags**

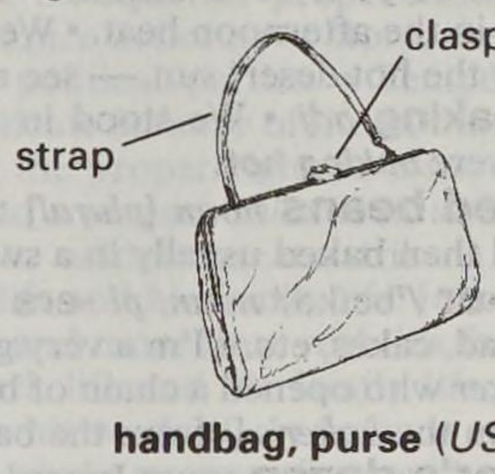
1 [*count*] **a** : a container made of thin material (such as paper, plastic, or cloth) that opens at the top and is used for holding or carrying things ▪ She packed her lunch in a paper *bag*. ▪ (*US*) a garbage/trash *bag* = (*Brit*) a rubbish *bag* ▪ (*US*) ***grocery bags*** = (*Brit*) ***carrier bags*** [=plastic or paper bags used for holding items bought at a store] **b** : a soft container carried by a woman and used to hold money and other small things (such as keys or makeup) ▪ She put the pencil in her *bag*. — see also HANDBAG, SHOULDER BAG **c** : a container used for carrying personal things (such as clothes) when you are going somewhere ▪ an overnight *bag* ▪ a gym

bag — usually plural ▪ We carried our *bags* [=*suitcases*, *luggage*] to the hotel room. ▪ She packed her *bags* and left.
2 [*count*] : the amount of something that is inside a bag ▪ We ate two *bags* [=*bagfuls*] of potato chips. ▪ a *bag* of apples/flour/fertilizer
3 *bags* [*plural*] : an area of swollen and often dark skin under a person's eyes ▪ a tired old man with *bags* under his eyes
4 [*singular*] : a collection of different things (such as ideas) ▪ They tried using their usual ***bag of tricks***. — see also GRAB BAG, MIXED BAG, RAGBAG
5 [*singular*] *informal* + *old-fashioned* : something that a person likes to do : something that a person does well ▪ Housecleaning isn't her *bag*. [=she doesn't like housecleaning] ▪ I've tried living in the city, but it's just not my *bag*.
6 [*count*] *baseball* : a square white bag that marks the position of first base, second base, and third base ▪ He slid into the *bag* and was safe at second base.
7 [*count*] *informal* — used as an insulting word for an old woman ▪ Shut up, you old *bag*!
8 *bags* [*plural*] *Brit, informal* : a large amount of something ▪ There's no need to hurry. We've still got *bags* [=*lots*] of time.
a bag of nerves see NERVE
bag and baggage *chiefly Brit* : with all of your possessions ▪ He got rid of the visitors, *bag and baggage*. [=*altogether*, *completely*]
hold the bag see [1]HOLD
in the bag *informal* : sure to happen ▪ Their success was *in the bag*. [=*guaranteed*] : certain to be successful ▪ We had the game *in the bag* [=*sewn up*] by the end of first half. ▪ She seemed to have the election *in the bag*. [=she seemed sure to win the election]
let the cat out of the bag see CAT

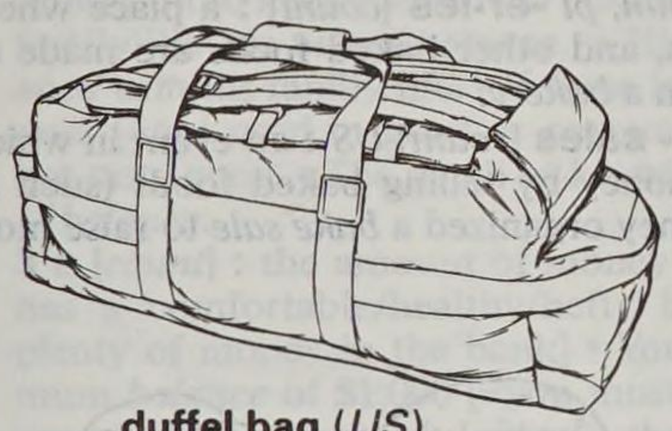
bag



tote bag (*chiefly US*)



handbag, purse (*US*)


duffel bag (*US*), **carryall,** holdall (*Brit*)



grocery bag


garbage bag


laundry bag

[2]bag *verb* **bags; bagged; bag·ging** [+ *obj*]
1 : to put (something) into a bag ▪ He got a job *bagging* groceries.
2 : to kill or catch (an animal) while hunting, fishing, etc. ▪ The hunters *bagged* five deer altogether. ▪ We *bagged* 10 fish today.
3 *informal* : to get (something desired) ▪ She's expected to *bag* the award for the team's most valuable player. ▪ I *bagged* the last seat so everyone else had to stand.
4 *US, informal* : to give up or leave (something) ▪ She decided to *bag* her job and move to the country. ▪ He finally *bagged* his acting career and went back to school.

ba·gel /'beɪgəl/ *noun, pl* **-gels** [*count*] : a bread roll shaped like a ring — see picture at BAKING

bagful /'bæg,fʊl/ *noun, pl* **-fuls** [*count*]
1 : the amount that a bag can hold ▪ two *bagfuls* [=*bags*] of apples
2 : a large number or amount ▪ She always has a *bagful* of stories. ▪ a *bagful* of tricks

bag·gage /'bægɪʤ/ *noun* [*noncount*]
1 *chiefly US* : the bags, suitcases, and personal things that a person carries when traveling : LUGGAGE ▪ Please collect your baggage. — see also *baggage claim* at [2]CLAIM
2 : the feelings, beliefs, problems, or past events that can make life difficult for a person or group ▪ His difficult childhood left him with a lot of heavy/personal/emotional *baggage*. ▪ the cultural/political/historical *baggage* of the region
bag and baggage see [1]BAG

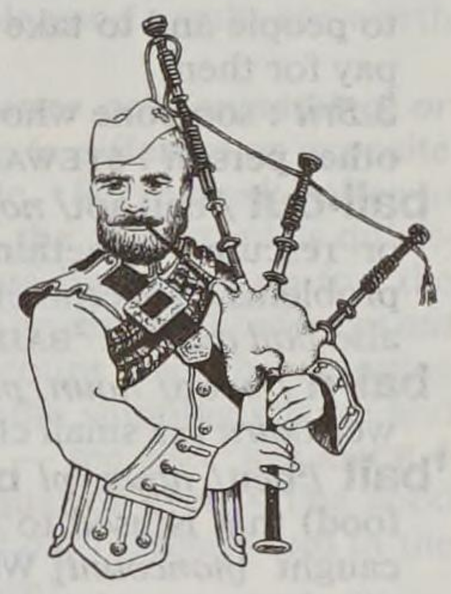
bag·gy /'bægi/ *adj* **bag·gi·er; -est** *of clothing* : very loose : not tight ▪ *baggy* jeans/sweaters ▪ These pants are too *baggy* at the knees.

bag lady *noun, pl* ~ **ladies** [*count*] : a homeless woman who walks around the streets of a city carrying her possessions in a bag

bag lunch *noun, pl* ~ **lunches** [*count*] *US* : a lunch that is made at home, packed inside a bag or box, and eaten at a job, at school, etc. ▪ Remember to bring a *bag lunch* to school tomorrow. — called also *box lunch*

bag of bones *noun* [*singular*] *informal* : a very thin person or animal ▪ I can't believe how thin he is. He's just a *bag of bones*.

bag·pipe /'bæg,paɪp/ *noun, pl* **-pipes** [*count*] : a musical instrument that is played especially in Scotland and that has a bag, a tube for blowing air into the bag, and pipes where the air leaves and makes sounds ✧ The musical instrument is usually referred to by the plural *bagpipes*. ▪ He's learning to play the *bagpipes*. In U.S. English, the singular *bagpipe* is also used. ▪ We heard the sound of a *bagpipe*. In both U.S. and British English, *bagpipe* is sometimes used before another noun. ▪ *bagpipe* music


bagpipe

ba·guette /bæ'gɛt/ *noun, pl* **-guettes** [*count*] : a long, thin loaf of French bread

bah /'bɑ:/ *interj, old-fashioned* + *humorous* — used to show dislike or disapproval of something ▪ *Bah*, humbug!

[1]bail /'beɪl/ *noun* [*noncount*] : an amount of money given to a court to allow a prisoner to leave jail and return later for a trial

The bail paid by a person accused of a crime is returned when the person comes back to court for a trial. To ***set bail*** is to decide how much money a person must pay in order to get out of jail until a trial. ▪ The judge/court *set bail* at $1 million. = The *bail* was *set* at $1 million. To ***grant bail*** or ***give bail*** is to allow a prisoner to pay money to leave jail until a trial. ▪ It is not clear whether the judge will *grant bail* in this case. If you are ***denied bail*** or ***held without bail***, a court will not allow you to pay money to leave jail until your trial. ▪ The two men are being *held without bail*. ▪ *Bail* was *denied*, and he was sent to prison to await his trial. If you are ***free on bail*** or ***out on bail*** or have been ***released/freed on bail***, you have paid the court money and are now out of jail and waiting for your trial. ▪ He is now *free on bail*. = He's *out on bail*. ▪ They were both *free/out on* $10,000 *bail*. [=they both paid the court $10,000 and promised to return for their trials] ▪ She was *released on* $5,000 *bail*. [=she left jail after paying the court $5,000] If you ***make bail*** or ***post bail***, you give enough money to the court and can leave jail until your trial. ▪ He didn't have enough money to *make bail* so he had to stay in prison until his trial. ▪ Someone *posted bail* for you. You're free to go. To ***jump bail*** or ***skip bail*** is to pay money to get out of jail and then not return for your trial. ▪ A day after he was released from jail, he decided to *jump bail* and leave the country. ▪ They *skipped bail* a week before the trial.

[2]bail *verb* **bails; bailed; bail•ing**

bail out [*phrasal verb*] **1** ***bail (someone) out*** *or* ***bail out (someone)*** : to make it possible for someone to leave jail by paying bail ▪ She went to the jail to *bail out* her boyfriend. = She *bailed* him *out* of jail. **2** ***bail (someone or something) out*** *or* ***bail out (someone or something)*** : to help (someone) solve a problem or leave a difficult situation ▪ They're always *bailing* their son *out* of trouble. : to help (a business, an organization, etc.) by giving or lending money ▪ The federal government *bailed out* [=gave money to] their struggling company. ▪ *bailing out* poor countries — see also BAILOUT

– compare [3]BAIL

[3]bail *verb* **bails; bailed; bailing**

1 [+ *obj*] : to remove or throw water *from* or *out of* a boat ▪ We used a bucket to *bail* water *out of* the canoe. = We used a bucket to *bail out* the canoe. ▪ *bailing* water *from* the bottom of the boat

2 [*no obj*] *US, informal* : to leave a difficult situation ▪ She *bailed* [=*bailed out*] when times got tough. [=she left when life became difficult] ▪ I think we'd better *bail*. [=*bail out*]

bail out [*phrasal verb*] *chiefly US* **1** : to jump out of an airplane with a parachute ▪ The pilot *bailed out* [=(*Brit*) *baled out*] just before the plane crashed. **2** : to leave or escape a harmful or difficult situation ▪ Most investors have *bailed out* [=(*Brit*) *baled out*] of the business. ▪ They *bailed out* [=*backed out*] of the deal.

– compare [2]BAIL

bai•liff /ˈbeɪləf/ *noun, pl* **-liffs** [*count*]

1 *US* : an officer in a court of law who helps the judge control the people in the courtroom

2 *Brit* : someone hired by a sheriff to bring legal documents to people and to take away possessions when people cannot pay for them

3 *Brit* : someone who manages the land and property of another person : STEWARD

bail•out /ˈbeɪlˌaʊt/ *noun, pl* **-outs** [*count*] : the act of saving or rescuing something (such as a business) from money problems ▪ government *bailouts* of large corporations — see also *bail out* 2 at [2]BAIL

bairn /ˈbeɚn/ *noun, pl* **bairns** [*count*] *Scotland* : CHILD ▪ a wee *bairn* [=a small child]

[1]bait /ˈbeɪt/ *noun, pl* **baits** : something (such as a piece of food) that is used to attract fish or animals so they can be caught [*noncount*] We always use live *bait* [=worms that are alive] when we fish. ▪ cheese used for/as *bait* in mousetraps ▪ Wait until the fish ***takes the bait***. [*count*] a wide selection of lures and *baits* — often used figuratively ▪ using bargains as *bait* for shoppers [=using bargains to attract shoppers] ▪ The police waited for the bank robbers to *take the bait*. [=to be tricked into doing the thing that would cause them to be trapped or caught] ▪ (*chiefly Brit*) The interviewer kept asking the politician whether he was lying, and he ***rose to the bait*** by getting angry.

fish or cut bait see [2]FISH

[2]bait *verb* **baits; bait•ed; bait•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to put a piece of food on (a hook) or in (a trap) in order to attract and catch fish or animals ▪ She *baited* the mousetraps with pieces of cheese. = She used cheese to *bait* the traps. ▪ *baiting* hooks with live worms ▪ a *baited* hook/trap

2 : to try to make (someone) angry by using criticism or insults ▪ The interviewer kept *baiting* the politician by asking him whether he was lying. — see also RACE-BAITING

3 : to use dogs to make (an animal, such as a bear or bull) angry or afraid — used in combination ▪ bear-*baiting* ▪ bull-*baiting*

bait and switch *noun* [*singular*] *US* : a selling method in which a customer is attracted by the advertisement of a low-priced product but then is encouraged to buy a more expensive one

bake /ˈbeɪk/ *verb* **bakes; baked; bak•ing**

1 a : to make (food, such as bread and cake) by preparing a dough, batter, etc., and cooking it in an oven using dry heat [+ *obj*] I *baked* you a cake. = I *baked* a cake for you. ▪ freshly *baked* bread [=bread that was baked recently] [*no obj*] He likes to *bake*. = He enjoys *baking*. [=he likes making pies, muffins, cookies, etc.] **b** : to cook (food) in an oven using dry heat [+ *obj*] *Bake* [=*roast*] the chicken for 30 minutes. ▪ *baked* potatoes ▪ She wrapped the fish in foil and *baked* it for 15 minutes. [*no obj*] — used in recipes ▪ Wrap the fish in foil and *bake* for 15 minutes. **c** [*no obj*] : to be cooked in an oven ▪ The turkey has been *baking* [=*roasting*] for an hour. ▪ How long has the cake been *baking*?

2 [+ *obj*] : to make (something, such as clay or mud) dry and hard by using heat ▪ They *baked* the bricks in the sun.

3 [*no obj*] : to be or become very hot ▪ The streets were *baking* in the afternoon heat. ▪ We stood *baking* [=*sweltering*] under the hot desert sun. — see also HALF-BAKED

– **baking** *adj* ▪ We stood in the *baking* heat. ▪ The streets were ***baking hot***.

baked beans *noun* [*plural*] : beans that have been boiled and then baked usually in a sweet brown sauce

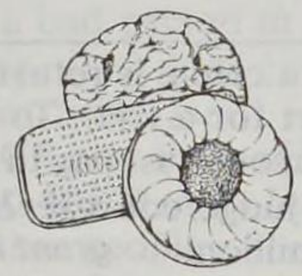
bak•er /ˈbeɪkɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : someone who bakes bread, cakes, etc. ▪ I'm a very good *baker*. ▪ She's a successful *baker* who opened a chain of bakeries. ▪ I got this bread fresh from the *baker's* [=from the bakery] this morning.

baker's dozen *noun* [*singular*] *old-fashioned* : thirteen of something ▪ a *baker's dozen* of books [=thirteen books]

bak•ery /ˈbeɪkəri/ *noun, pl* **-er•ies** [*count*] : a place where bread, cakes, cookies, and other baked foods are made or sold ▪ They work at/in a *bakery*.

bake sale *noun, pl* ~ **sales** [*count*] *US* : an event in which people try to earn money by selling baked foods (such as cookies and pies) ▪ They organized a *bake sale* to raise money for the church.

baking



cookies



muffin



cupcake, fairy cake (*Brit*)



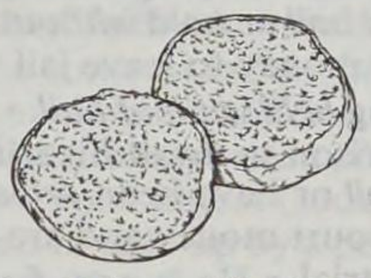
Danish, Danish pastry



bagel



dinner roll



English muffin (*US*), muffin (*Brit*)



scone



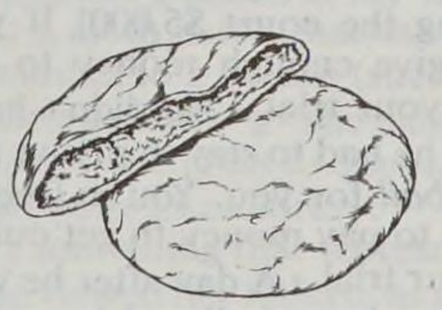
croissant



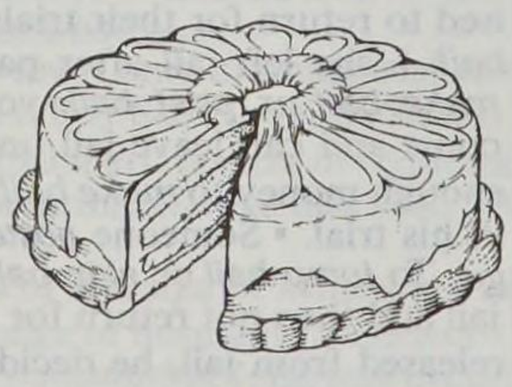
hot dog bun



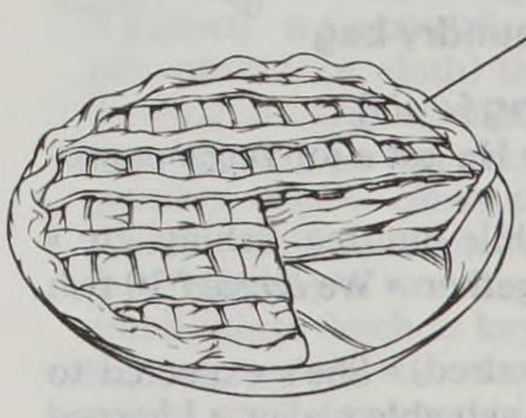
hamburger bun



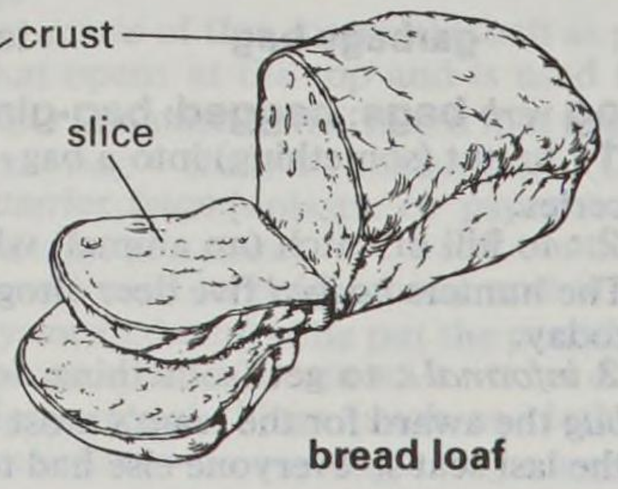
pita (*US*), pitta (*Brit*)



cake



pie



bread loaf

baking powder *noun* [*noncount*] : a white powder that is used to make baked foods (such as cakes and breads) light and fluffy ▪ The recipe calls for a teaspoon of *baking powder*.

baking sheet *noun, pl* ~ **sheets** [*count*] : a flat piece of metal used for baking things (such as cookies and biscuits) in an oven — called also (*chiefly US*) *cookie sheet*; see picture at KITCHEN

baking soda *noun* [*noncount*] : a kind of salt that is used to make baked foods (such as cookies and breads) light and fluffy ✧ *Baking soda* is one of the ingredients in baking powder. — called also *bicarb, bicarbonate of soda, sodium bicarbonate*

baking tray *noun, pl* ~ **trays** [*count*] *chiefly Brit* : BAKING SHEET

bal•a•cla•va /ˌbælə'klɑːvə/ *noun, pl* **-vas** [*count*] : a warm hat that covers the head, neck, and most of the face

[1]bal•ance /'bæləns/ *noun, pl* **-anc•es**

1 [*noncount*] **a** : the state of having your weight spread equally so that you do not fall ▪ He held on to the rail for *balance*. = He held on to the rail to ***keep/maintain his balance***. ▪ She had trouble *keeping her balance* as the boat rocked back and forth. ▪ The skater suddenly ***lost his balance*** and fell. ▪ Another skater bumped into him and ***knocked/threw him off balance***. ✧ In figurative use, to ***knock/throw someone off balance*** or ***keep someone off balance*** is to make someone feel unsure about how to behave or what to expect. ▪ He was surprised and *thrown off balance* by her strong personality. ▪ The sudden change in the schedule *knocked me off balance*. ▪ The author *keeps* her readers *off balance* by always changing the subject. **b** : the ability to move or to remain in a position without losing control or falling ▪ Gymnasts need flexibility and *balance*. ▪ She has a good ***sense of balance***.

2 [*singular*] : a state in which different things occur in equal or proper amounts or have an equal or proper amount of importance ▪ To provide *balance* in her news story, she interviewed members of both political parties. ▪ Temperature changes could upset the delicate *balance* of life in the forest. ▪ To lose weight you need the proper/right *balance* of diet and exercise. ▪ The food had a perfect *balance* of sweet and spicy flavors. ▪ He needs to achieve/create/strike a better *balance* between his work life and his family life. [=he needs to spend less time at work and more time with his family] ▪ He's trying to keep his work life and his family life ***in balance***. = He's trying to keep his work life ***in balance with*** his family life. [=he's trying to give a proper of amount of time and attention to both his work life and his family life] ▪ It's important to keep your life *in balance*. ▪ His work life and his family life are ***out of balance***. = His work life is ***out of balance with*** his family life. ▪ If these ingredients are *out of balance* [=not used in good or correct amounts], the dish will not taste good. ▪ The death of his wife threw/sent his life *out of balance*.

3 a [*count*] : the amount of money in a bank account ▪ He has a comfortable/healthy/hefty bank *balance*. [=he has plenty of money in the bank] ▪ You must maintain a minimum *balance* of $1,000 [=you must keep at least $1,000] in your bank account. **b** [*count*] : the amount of money that still needs to be paid ▪ What are the unpaid *balances* on your credit cards? ▪ The bill was $500 and we've received $400, so the *balance* (of the bill) is $100. **c *the balance*** : something that remains or is left over after other things have been done or used ▪ We planned to stay there for *the balance* [=*the rest, the remainder*] of the summer. ▪ Although the beginning is funny, *the balance* of the book is very serious.

4 [*count*] : a device that measures weight and shows how heavy things are : SCALE — see also CHECKS AND BALANCES

in the balance ✧ If something (such as your future) ***hangs in the balance*** or ***is in the balance***, it is not certain but will soon be known or decided. ▪ Our future *hangs in the balance* as we await their decision. [=our future depends on their decision; their decision will control our future] ▪ With his job *in the balance*, he went to ask his boss for a raise.

on balance : with all things considered : in general ▪ The meeting went well *on balance*. ▪ Although our lives are difficult now, I believe that *on balance* we are becoming stronger people.

tip the balance see [1]TIP

[2]balance *verb* **-ances; -anced; -anc•ing**

1 : to make (something, such as a plate or your body) steady by keeping weight equal on all sides [+ *obj*] — usually + *on* ▪ The waiters *balanced* the food *on* large trays. ▪ She learned to walk while *balancing* a book *on* her head. ▪ Can you *balance* a spoon *on* your nose? [*no obj*] I find it difficult to *balance on* one foot. ▪ He had trouble *balancing on* his skis. ▪ He helped his daughter *balance on* her bicycle before she started peddling. — see also *balancing act* at [1]ACT

2 a [+ *obj*] : to adjust (an account or budget) so that the amount of money available is more than or equal to the amount of money that has been spent ▪ The legislature is still trying to *balance* the state's budget. ▪ a *balanced* budget **b** : to check and make adjustments to financial records so that they are accurate [+ *obj*] He *balances* his checkbook every month. ▪ The company hasn't done a good job *balancing* the books. [=keeping a record of the money it spends and earns] [*no obj*] Something's wrong: the books don't *balance*.

3 [+ *obj*] : to make (different or opposite things) equal in strength or importance ▪ She's able to *balance* her career with her family life. = She *balances* work and family. ▪ The group is *balanced* between new and old members. [=the group had an equal number of new and old members] — see also BALANCE OUT 2 (below)

4 [+ *obj*] : to make (a different or opposite thing) less powerful, noticeable, etc. ▪ Serve black coffee to help *balance* the sweetness of the dessert. ▪ His quickness will *balance* [=compensate for, make up for] the other fighter's greater strength. ▪ The movie's serious subject matter is *balanced* [=*offset*] with humor. ▪ His sadness was *balanced* by memories of happier days. — see also BALANCE OUT 1 (below)

5 [+ *obj*] : to think about (different things) and decide which is better or more important — usually + *against* or *with* ▪ Their fears must be *balanced* [=*weighed*] *against* the need for change. ▪ A national government must *balance* [=*compare*] the needs of individuals *with/against* the needs of the entire country. ▪ They'll have to *balance* the risks *with* the rewards. [=they'll have to decide if the possible good results are worth the possible bad results]

balance out [*phrasal verb*] **1 *balance out (something) or balance (something) out*** : to make (a different or opposite thing) less powerful, noticeable, etc. ▪ Serve black coffee to help *balance out* the sweetness of the dessert. ▪ His quickness will *balance out* [=compensate for, make up for] the other fighter's greater strength. ▪ The discount *balances out* the shipping charge. = The discount and the shipping charge *balance* each other *out*. [=the shipping charge and the discount together equal zero] — see also [2]BALANCE 4 (above) **2** : to be or become equal or even ▪ The good times and the bad times *balanced out* [=*evened out*] in the end. — see also [2]BALANCE 3 (above)

balance beam *noun, pl* ~ **beams** [*count*] : a thick bar of wood raised above the floor that is used in gymnastics for displays of balance

bal•anced /'bælənst/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : having good or equal amounts of all the necessary parts of something ▪ Most news articles gave a *balanced* [=*fair, unbiased*] account of the event. ▪ a *balanced* diet [=a diet having all the kinds of food needed to be healthy] ▪ Every morning she eats a *balanced* breakfast of toast, yogurt, and a glass of orange juice. — opposite UNBALANCED

balance of payments *noun* [*singular*] : the difference between the amount of money that a country spends and the amount it earns

balance of power *noun* [*singular*] : a state or situation in which two countries or groups (such as two political parties) have equal amounts of power — usually used with *the* ▪ Their party's loss of two members shifted/tipped *the balance of power* in the legislature. ✧ A group that ***holds the balance of power*** is able to control what happens by choosing to support either one of two larger groups that oppose each other.

balance of trade *noun* [*singular*] : the difference between the amount of money that a country spends on its imports and the amount that it earns from its exports ▪ Each nation tries to maintain a favorable *balance of trade* with other countries. [=they try to earn more from their exports than they spend on their imports]

balance sheet *noun, pl* ~ **sheets** [*count*] : a statement that shows the financial condition of a company at a particular time by listing the amount of money and property that the company has and the amount of money it owes

bal•co•ny /'bælkəni/ *noun, pl* **-nies** [*count*]

1 : a raised platform that is connected to the side of a building and surrounded by a low wall or railing ▪ We asked for a hotel room with a *balcony*. — see picture on next page

2 : a floor or seating area above the main floor of a theater ▪

Our seats are on/in the *balcony*. = We have *balcony* seats. — see picture at THEATER

bald /ˈbɑːld/ *adj* **bald•er; -est**

1 a *of a person* : having no hair or very little hair on the head ▪ a *bald* man ▪ All of his uncles are completely *bald*. ▪ He's already starting to ***go bald*** [=to become bald] ▪ He had *gone* completely *bald* by the age of 30. **b** *of a part of the body* : not covered with hair ▪ He covered his *bald* head with a baseball cap. ▪ There's a *bald* spot on the top of his head. ▪ There are *bald* patches in the cat's fur.



balcony 1

2 : not covered with trees and plants ▪ a *bald* mountain top

3 *of a tire* : having a flat and smooth surface because of age and use ▪ an old car with *bald* tires

4 : said or given in a very direct way without extra details or explanations ▪ She repeated her *bald* assertion that her son was not guilty of the crime. ▪ We need more than *bald* statements; we need evidence and proof. ▪ the *bald* facts — compare BALD-FACED

– bald•ly *adv* ▪ She *baldly* asserted that her son was not guilty. ▪ To put it *baldly* [=to say it in a harsh and honest way], I don't like you. **– bald•ness** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ a medicine that treats *baldness* ▪ I was surprised by the *baldness* of her assertion.

bald eagle *noun, pl* **~ eagles** [*count*] : a very large bird of North America that has a white head and white tail feathers ✧ The bald eagle is a symbol of the U.S. — see color picture on page C9

bal•der•dash /ˈbɑːldɚˌdæʃ/ *noun* [*noncount*] *old-fashioned + informal* : foolish words or ideas : NONSENSE ▪ Frankly, I think that's absolute *balderdash*. [=*baloney*, *hogwash*] — sometimes used as an interjection. ▪ *Balderdash*! That's not what happened!

bald–faced /ˈbɑːldˈfeɪst/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] *chiefly US*

1 : easy to see and understand as being bad ▪ That's a *bald-faced* [=*barefaced*, *blatant*] lie!

2 : showing no guilt or shame : not hiding bad behavior ▪ Don't believe her. She's a *bald-faced* [=*barefaced*, *blatant*] liar.

bald•ing /ˈbɑːldɪŋ/ *adj* : becoming bald ▪ He wore a hat to cover his *balding* head. ▪ a *balding* man

[1]bale /ˈbeɪl/ *noun, pl* **bales** [*count*] : a large amount of a material (such as hay or wool) that is pressed together tightly and often tied or wrapped ▪ a *bale* of cotton/paper

[2]bale *verb* **bales; baled; bal•ing** [+ *obj*] : to press together and tightly tie or wrap (something, such as hay or paper) into a bale — compare [3]BALE

[3]bale *verb* **bales; baled; baling** [+ *obj*] *Brit* : [3]BAIL 1 ▪ We used a bucket to *bale* water out of the canoe. = We used a bucket to *bale* out the canoe.

bale out [*phrasal verb*] *Brit* **1** : to jump out of an airplane with a parachute ▪ The pilot *baled out* [=*bailed out*] just before the plane crashed. **2** : to leave or escape a harmful or difficult situation ▪ The investors *baled out* [=*bailed out*] of the business. ▪ They *baled out* [=*backed out*] of the deal. – compare [2]BALE

bale•ful /ˈbeɪlfəl/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] *formal*

1 : threatening harm or evil ▪ He turned and gave us a *baleful* [=*sinister*] glance/glare/look.

2 : harmful or deadly ▪ the *baleful* effects/consequences of water pollution

– bale•ful•ly *adv* ▪ He stared *balefully* at his opponent.

[1]balk *also Brit* **baulk** /ˈbɑːk/ *verb* **balks; balked; balk•ing** [*no obj*]

1 : to suddenly show that you do not want to do something : to refuse to do what someone else wants you to do ▪ If this witness *balks* [=refuses to cooperate in court], our lawyers will not have enough evidence to win the case. — often + *at* ▪ The public *balked at* the President's new tax plan. ▪ He *balks at* sending his children to expensive private schools. [=he won't send his children to expensive private schools]

2 a *of a horse, mule, etc.* : to stop quickly and refuse to continue going ▪ The horse *balked* and would not jump the fence. **b** *of an engine* : to fail to work in the usual or expected way ▪ I turned the key, but the car's engine *balked*. [=refused to start]

3 *baseball, of a pitcher* : to stop suddenly after starting to throw a pitch : to commit a balk ▪ The runner on third base tried to make the pitcher *balk*.

[2]balk *noun, pl* **balks** [*count*] *baseball* : an occurrence in which a pitcher stops suddenly or makes an illegal movement after starting to throw a pitch ▪ He committed a *balk*. ✧ A pitcher can only commit a balk if there is a runner on first base, second base, or third base. When a balk occurs, the runner is allowed to go to the next base.

balky /ˈbɑːki/ *adj* **balk•i•er; -est** [*also more ~; most ~*] *chiefly US* : not doing what is wanted or expected ▪ Several *balky* [=*stubborn*] congressmen have refused to support the President's tax plan. ▪ a *balky* horse ▪ a *balky* engine

[1]ball /ˈbɑːl/ *noun, pl* **balls**

1 [*count*] : a usually round object that is used in a game or sport or as a toy ▪ a tennis/soccer *ball* ▪ golf/billiard/bowling *balls* ▪ a toy rubber *ball* ▪ kick/throw/hit/catch/bounce/dribble the *ball*

2 [*count*] : something that has a round shape ▪ a *ball* of string ▪ She uses cotton *balls* to clean her face. ▪ eating rice/melon *balls*

3 [*count*] : a round bullet shot out of an old-fashioned gun

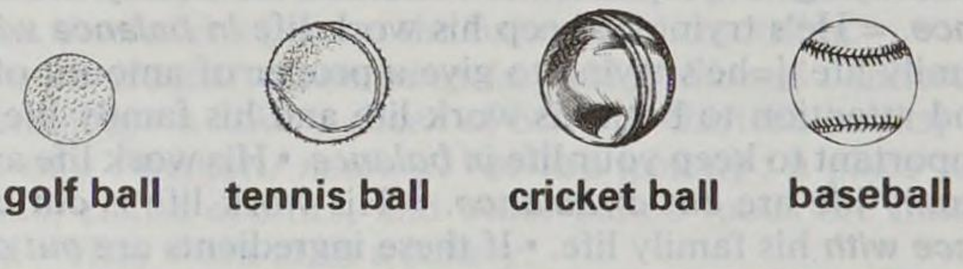
4 [*count*] : the rounded part of the human foot that is at the bottom of the foot and behind the toes — usually plural ▪ He stood on the *balls* of his feet. — see picture at FOOT

5 *informal + often offensive* **a** [*count*] : TESTICLE — usually plural ▪ She kicked him in the *balls*. **b** ***balls*** [*plural*] : the courage that is needed to do something ▪ You don't have the/enough *balls* [=*guts*, *nerve*] to fight me. **c** ***balls*** [*plural*] *Brit* : NONSENSE — often used as an interjection to express disapproval or annoyance

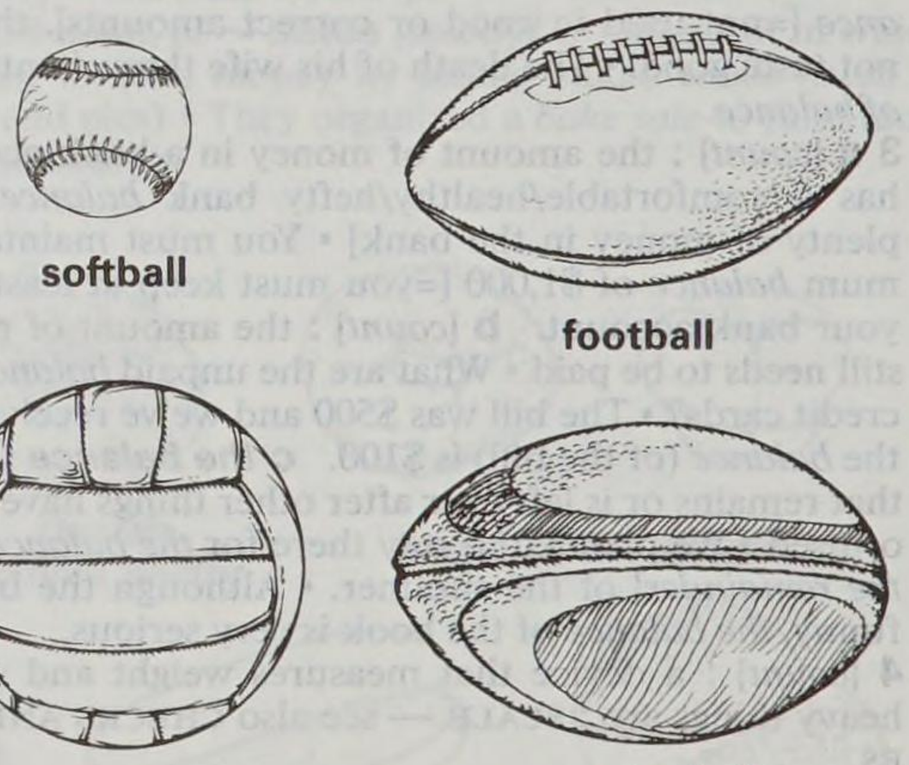
6 [*count*] **a** *sports* : a ball that is thrown or hit ▪ She hit a high arching *ball* over the net. ▪ I thought the *ball* [=serve] was good, but my opponent said it was out. — see also AIR BALL, CURVEBALL, FASTBALL, FLY BALL, GROUND BALL, *fair ball* at [1]FAIR, *foul ball* at [1]FOUL **b** *baseball* : a pitch that does not go through the proper area and that the batter does not swing at ▪ The first pitch was a *ball* but the next two pitches were strikes.

carry the ball *US, informal* : to have the responsibility for doing something ▪ No one else is available to make the arrangements, so it's up to you to *carry the ball*.

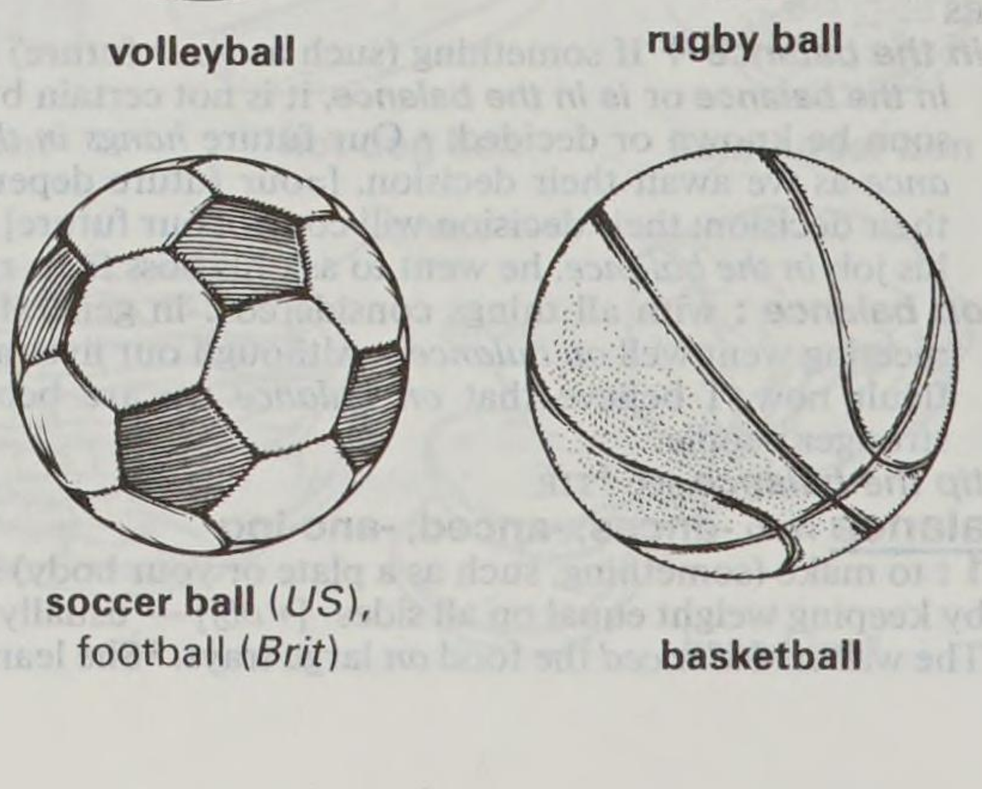
ball



golf ball · tennis ball · cricket ball · baseball



softball · football



volleyball · rugby ball

soccer ball (*US*), football (*Brit*) · basketball

drop the ball *US, informal* : to make a mistake especially by not doing something important ▪ I think the mayor *dropped the ball* by not hiring more police officers.

get/set/start the ball rolling *informal* : to begin an activity or process ▪ She tried to *get the ball rolling* by asking him a few questions.

keep the ball rolling *informal* : to cause an activity or process to continue ▪ I've started the preparations for the party, but it's up to you to *keep the ball rolling*.

keep your eye on the ball *informal* : to continue thinking about or giving attention to something important that you want to do or achieve ▪ She really needs to *keep her eye on the ball* [=stay focused] if she wants to win the election.

on the ball *informal* : mentally prepared : aware of what is happening and ready to do what is needed or wanted ▪ With so many intelligent students, the teacher must always be *on the ball*. ▪ Their lawyer was really *on the ball*.

play ball **1** : to begin or continue to play a game with a ball (such as baseball) ▪ "Let's *play ball*!" shouted the umpire. ▪ We went outside to *play* some *ball*. **2** : to do what other people want you to do : to cooperate or work with other people ▪ He refused to *play ball* with the police.

the ball is in your court ✧ If *the ball is in your court*, you are the person who is expected or required to do something. ▪ What do you think we should do now? *The ball is in your court*. ▪ She's waiting for *the ball to be in her court*.

– compare [3]BALL

[2]ball *verb* **balls**; **balled**; **ball•ing** [+ *obj*] : to form (something) into a ball ▪ I stood up quickly and *balled* my hands into fists. ▪ He *balled* the letter in his hands and threw it in the trash. — often + *up* ▪ He *balled up* the letter and threw it in the trash. ▪ His clothes were *balled up* on the floor. ▪ She lay in bed *balled up* [=*curled up*] under the blankets.

[3]ball *noun, pl* **balls** [*count*] : a large formal party for dancing ▪ Cinderella went to the *ball* and danced with the prince. ▪ They were invited to the governor's *ball*.

have a ball *informal* : to have fun : to spend time in a very enjoyable way ▪ Everyone *had a ball* at the party.

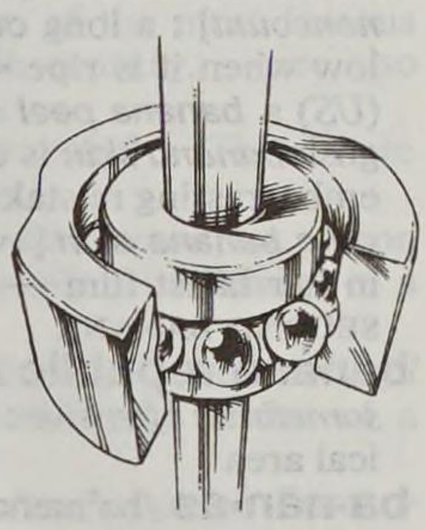
– compare [1]BALL

bal•lad /'bæləd/ *noun, pl* **-lads** [*count*]
1 : a slow popular song that is typically about love
2 : a kind of poem or song that tells a story (such as a story about a famous person from history) ▪ a *ballad* about King Arthur

ball and chain *noun* [*singular*] : something that limits someone's freedom or ability to do things ▪ Drugs are a *ball and chain* for many people. ▪ (*old-fashioned*) He referred to his wife as "the *ball and chain*."

bal•last /'bæləst/ *noun* [*noncount*] : heavy material (such as rocks or water) that is put on a ship to make it steady or on a balloon to control its height in the air — often used figuratively ▪ His wife provided the *ballast* he needed in times of stress. [=his wife helped to keep him steady/stable in times of stress]

ball bearing *noun, pl* ~ **-ings** [*count*]
1 : a part of a machine in which another part (such as a metal pole) turns easily ✧ A ball bearing is made up of several small metal balls that fit between two metal rings.
2 : one of the balls in a ball bearing


ball bearings

ball boy *noun, pl* ~ **boys** [*count*] : a boy who picks up balls that go out of play during a game in tennis, baseball, etc.

bal•le•ri•na /ˌbælə'ri:nə/ *noun, pl* **-nas** [*count*] : a woman who is a ballet dancer — see also PRIMA BALLERINA

bal•let /bæ'leɪ, 'bæˌleɪ/ *noun, pl* **bal•lets**
1 [*noncount*] : a kind of dancing that is performed on a stage and that uses dance, music, costumes, and scenery to tell a story ▪ She does tap dancing and *ballet*. ▪ a performance of *ballet* — often used before another noun ▪ a *ballet* performance ▪ He's taking *ballet* lessons. ▪ a *ballet* dancer ▪ *ballet* shoes
2 : a show in which ballet is performed [*count*] We are going to a *ballet* tonight. ▪ This is one of my favorite *ballets*. [*noncount*] We enjoy going to the *ballet*. [=we enjoy going to ballet performances]
3 [*count*] : a group of dancers who perform ballets together — often used in names ▪ the Royal *Ballet* ▪ the New York City *Ballet*

– **bal•let•ic** /bæ'letɪk/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ *balletic* [=*graceful*] movements ▪ She moved with *balletic* grace.

ball game *noun, pl* ~ **games** [*count*]
1 : any game that is played with a ball ▪ He was popular because he was good at *ball games*.
2 *US* : a baseball game ▪ Dad took us to a *ball game*. ▪ watching a *ball game* on TV
3 *informal* — used in phrases like ***a whole new ball game*** and ***a different ball game*** to describe a situation or activity that has changed ▪ The sport of car racing is *a whole new ball game*. ▪ Raising children is *a different ball game* now.

ball girl *noun, pl* ~ **girls** [*count*] : a girl who picks up balls that go out of play during a game in tennis, baseball, etc.

bal•lis•tic /bə'lɪstɪk/ *adj*
go ballistic *informal* **1** : to become very angry ▪ Dad *went ballistic* when he saw the dent in his car. **2** *US* : to become very excited ▪ The crowd was *going ballistic*. [=*going wild*]

ballistic missile *noun, pl* ~ **-siles** [*count*] : a weapon that is shot through the sky over a great distance and then falls to the ground and explodes ▪ an intercontinental *ballistic missile*

bal•lis•tics /bə'lɪstɪks/ *noun* [*plural*] : the science that studies the movement of objects (such as bullets or rockets) that are shot or forced to move forward through the air

ball of fire *noun, pl* **balls of fire** [*count*] *chiefly US, informal* : a person who is very active and has a lot of energy ▪ That guy is a real *ball of fire*.

ball of wax *noun* [*singular*] *US, informal*
1 : a situation or set of conditions ▪ He's a good amateur, but playing basketball at the professional level is an entirely different *ball of wax*. [=an entirely different thing]
2 : a collection of items or objects ▪ He won the car, the furniture, and the tropical vacation—the ***whole ball of wax***! [=*everything*]

[1]bal•loon /bə'lu:n/ *noun, pl* **-loons** [*count*]
1 : a thin usually rubber bag that becomes larger when it is filled with air or gas ▪ I blew up a *balloon* but then it burst. ▪ brightly colored *balloons* and other party decorations — see also HOT-AIR BALLOON, TRIAL BALLOON
2 : a picture or space in a cartoon that contains words that are spoken or thought by a character

go over like a lead balloon (*US*) *or Brit* ***go down like a lead balloon*** *informal, of a joke, suggestion, etc.* : to fail completely ▪ He told a joke about his mother-in-law and it *went over like a lead balloon*. [=no one laughed at the joke] ▪ My suggestion *went over like a lead balloon*. [=no one liked my suggestion]

[2]balloon *verb* **-loons**; **-looned**; **-loon•ing** [*no obj*] : to become bigger quickly ▪ Their credit card debt *ballooned* to more than $5,000. ▪ His weight *ballooned* to 300 pounds. = He *ballooned* to 300 pounds. ▪ the *ballooning* costs of education ▪ *ballooning* weight

bal•loon•ing /bə'lu:nɪŋ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the activity or sport of riding in a hot air balloon ▪ She's always wanted to ***go ballooning***.

– **bal•loon•ist** /bə'lu:nɪst/ *noun, pl* **-ists** [*count*] ▪ an experienced *balloonist* [=a person who goes ballooning]

balloon payment *noun, pl* ~ **-ments** [*count*] *US* : a final payment that is much larger than any earlier payment made on a debt ▪ They agreed to pay $1,000 a year for five years and then make a *balloon payment* of $50,000 at the end of the term.

[1]bal•lot /'bælət/ *noun, pl* **-lots**
1 [*count*] : a ticket or piece of paper used to vote in an election ▪ a paper *ballot* = (*Brit*) a ***ballot paper*** ▪ The issue was ***on the ballot*** in November. [=people voted to support or oppose the issue in the November election] ▪ I ***cast my ballot*** [=*voted*] for the new candidate. — see also ABSENTEE BALLOT
2 : a process that allows people to vote in secret so that other people cannot see their votes [*count*] They cast their votes in a ***secret ballot***. [*noncount*] She was elected by *secret ballot*.
3 [*noncount*] **a** : the total number of votes in an election ▪ He won 65 percent of the *ballot*. [=*vote*] **b** : an election ▪ He claims that his opponent won by ***rigging the ballot***. [=by rigging the election; by dishonestly controlling the results of the election]

[2]ballot *verb* **-lots**; **-lot•ed**; **-lot•ing** [+ *obj*] *chiefly Brit* : to ask (people) to decide something by voting — usually used as *(be) balloted* ▪ Union members *were balloted* [=*polled*] about whether to accept the company's offer.

ballot box *noun, pl* ~ **boxes**
1 [*count*] : a box that holds the ballots used for voting in an election
2 [*singular*] : an act of voting using secret ballots ▪ He'll never be able to win ***at the ballot box***. [=in an election]
stuff the ballot box *US* : to vote more than once in an election in order to help someone win ▪ Fans *stuffed the ballot box* for their favorite players.

bal•lot•ing *noun* [*noncount*] : an act or process of voting ▪ The *balloting* [=*election, voting*] will not be secret. ▪ the *balloting* for class president

[1]ball•park /ˈbɑːlˌpɑɚk/ *noun, pl* **-parks** [*count*] : a park in which baseball games are played : a baseball park or stadium ▪ hit a home run out of the *ballpark*
in the ballpark *informal* : close to the correct or exact number, price, etc. ▪ My first guess wasn't even *in the ballpark*. [=it was not close to being correct] ▪ An offer of $5,000 would be *in the* (right) *ballpark* for this car. [=this car is worth about $5,000]

[2]ballpark *adj, always used before a noun* : not exact but close in number or amount : approximately correct ▪ She gave us a *ballpark* price of $5,000. [=she said it could cost about $5,000] ▪ We don't know exactly how many people live in this city, but a *ballpark* figure/estimate would be about two million.

ball•play•er /ˈbɑːlˌpleiɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] *US* : a baseball player ▪ big-league *ballplayers*

ball•point pen /ˈbɑːlˌpoɪnt-/ *noun, pl* ~ **pens** [*count*] : a pen whose tip is a small metal ball that rolls on a writing surface — called also *ballpoint*; see picture at OFFICE

ball•room /ˈbɑːlˌruːm/ *noun, pl* **-rooms** [*count*] : a large room used for dances

ballroom dancing *noun* [*noncount*] : a style of dancing in which couples hold each other and use set moves to perform different kinds of formal dances (such as the polka, the tango, or the waltz)
– **ballroom dance** *noun, pl* ~ **dances** [*count*] ▪ The waltz is a kind of *ballroom dance*.

balls /ˈbɑːlz/ *verb* **balls•es**; **ballsed**; **balls•ing**
balls up [*phrasal verb*] ***balls (something) up*** *or* ***balls up (something)*** *Brit slang, sometimes offensive* : to make mistakes in doing or making something ▪ He *ballsed up* [=*fouled up, messed up*] everything and never got anything right. — see also BALLS-UP

balls–up /ˈbɑːlzˌʌp/ *noun, pl* **-ups** [*count*] *Brit slang, sometimes offensive* : a problem caused by mistakes or carelessness ▪ He ***made a balls-up*** [=*made a mess*] of everything and never got anything right. — see also *balls up* at BALLS

ball•sy /ˈbɑːlzi/ *adj* **ball•si•er**; **-est** *informal, sometimes offensive* : very tough or brave ▪ That was a *ballsy* [=*gutsy, nervy*] thing to say! ▪ She's quite a *ballsy* lawyer. ▪ a *ballsy* attempt to sneak out of the house

bal•ly•hoo /ˈbæliˌhuː/ *noun* [*noncount*] *informal* : talk or writing that is designed to get people excited or interested in something ▪ Despite all of the *ballyhoo* [=*hype*], the group's new album is terrible.
– **ballyhoo** *verb* **-hoos**; **-hooed**; **-hoo•ing** [+ *obj*] ▪ a much *ballyhooed* new album

balm /ˈbɑːm/ *noun, pl* **balms**
1 [*count, noncount*] : an oily substance that has a pleasant smell and that is used for healing, smoothing, or protecting the skin
2 [*singular*] : something that gives comfort or support ▪ Art can be a *balm* to the soul. ▪ She shows that laughter is a *balm* for difficult times.

balmy /ˈbɑːmi/ *adj* **balm•i•er**; **-est**
1 *of air, weather, etc.* : warm, calm, and pleasant ▪ *balmy* [=*mild*] summer air ▪ a *balmy* evening
2 *chiefly US, informal* : crazy or foolish ▪ a *balmy* [=(*Brit*) *barmy*] idea that no one took seriously

ba•lo•ney /bəˈloʊni/ *noun* [*noncount*]
1 *informal* : foolish words or ideas : NONSENSE ▪ Don't believe all of that *baloney*. ▪ He's been telling you a bunch/load of *baloney*. [=*hogwash, balderdash*] — sometimes used as an interjection. ▪ *Baloney*! You've never been to the North Pole.
2 *US* : BOLOGNA ▪ a *baloney* sandwich

bal•sa /ˈbɑːlsə/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the very light wood of a tropical American tree

bal•sam /ˈbɑːlsəm/ *noun* [*noncount*] : an oily substance with a pleasant smell that comes from different kinds of plants

balsam fir *noun, pl* ~ **firs** [*count*] : a small American evergreen tree

bal•sam•ic vinegar /bɑlˈsæmɪk-/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a type of Italian vinegar that has a dark color and a sweet taste

bal•us•ter /ˈbæləstɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ters** [*count*] : a short post that helps support a rail in a balustrade or similar structure

bal•us•trade /ˈbæləˌstreɪd/ *noun, pl* **-trades** [*count*] : a kind of low wall that is placed at the sides of staircases, bridges, etc., and that is made of a row of short posts topped by a long rail

bam /ˈbæm/ *noun, pl* **bams** [*count*] *informal* : a sudden loud noise ▪ We heard a loud *bam*. — often used as an interjection to show that something has hit something or has happened suddenly ▪ I was driving along when, *bam*, I hit a pothole. ▪ Everything was fine, and then *bam*, the electricity went out.

bam•boo /bæmˈbuː/ *noun, pl* **-boos** : a tall plant with hard hollow stems that are used for building and to make furniture, tools, etc. [*noncount*] *Bamboo* grows in the grove near the house. [*count*] We cut down some *bamboos*.
– **bamboo** *adj* ▪ The house is full of *bamboo* furniture. ▪ The recipe is prepared with ***bamboo shoots***. [=young bamboo plants]

bam•boo•zle /bæmˈbuːzəl/ *verb* **-boo•zles**; **-boo•zled**; **-boo•zling** [+ *obj*] *informal* : to trick or confuse (someone) ▪ The salesperson *bamboozled* [=*deceived*] us into getting a more expensive item than we had planned to buy. ▪ The quarterback was thoroughly *bamboozled* [=*confused*] by the defense.

[1]ban /ˈbæn/ *verb* **bans**; **banned**; **ban•ning** [+ *obj*]
1 : to forbid people from using (something) : to say that something cannot be used or done ▪ The school *banned* that book for many years. ▪ The city has *banned* smoking in all public buildings. ▪ The drug was *banned* a decade ago. ▪ The use of cell phones is *banned* in the restaurant.
2 : to forbid (someone) from doing or being part of something — usually + *from* ▪ They *banned* [=*barred*] him *from* entering the building. = He was *banned from* entering the building. ▪ She was *banned from* the team because of drug use.

[2]ban *noun, pl* **bans** [*count*] : an official rule saying that people are not allowed to use or do something ▪ The city has imposed a smoking *ban* in all public buildings. — often + *on* ▪ She challenged the *ban on* smoking. ▪ They lifted the *ban on* the drug.

ba•nal /bəˈnæl, bəˈnɑːl, ˈbeɪnəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : boring or ordinary : not interesting ▪ He made some *banal* remarks about the weather. ▪ The writing was *banal* but the story was good.

ba•nal•i•ty /bəˈnæləti/ *noun, pl* **-ties**
1 [*count*] : something that is boring or ordinary ▪ The trip offers an escape from the *banalities* of daily life.; *especially* : an uninteresting statement : a banal remark ▪ We exchanged *banalities* about the weather.
2 [*noncount*] : the quality of being ordinary or banal ▪ The writing never rose above *banality*.

ba•nana /bəˈnænə, *Brit* bəˈnɑːnə/ *noun, pl* **-nan•as** [*count, noncount*] : a long curved fruit with a thick peel that is yellow when it is ripe ▪ a bunch of *bananas* ▪ peel a *banana* ▪ (*US*) a ***banana peel*** = (*Brit*) a ***banana skin*** ✧ In British English *banana skin* is used figuratively to describe a foolish or embarrassing mistake or failure. ▪ a director who has ***slipped on a banana skin*** [=who has failed in an embarrassing way] in her latest film — see color picture on page C5; see also SECOND BANANA

banana republic *noun, pl* ~ **-lics** [*count*] *disapproving* + *sometimes offensive* : a small, weak country usually in a tropical area

ba•nan•as /bəˈnænəz, *Brit* bəˈnɑːnəz/ *adj, not used before a noun, informal* : CRAZY ▪ If you ask me, that guy is *bananas*. [=*nuts*] ▪ You're ***driving me bananas*** [=*driving me crazy*] with all those questions. ▪ All the noise *drove me bananas*.
go bananas *informal* : to become very excited or angry ▪ The crowd *went bananas* [=*went crazy*] when the concert began.

banana split *noun, pl* ~ **splits** [*count*] : a dessert made with ice cream served on a sliced banana and usually covered with sweet sauces, fruits, nuts, and whipped cream

[1]band /ˈbænd/ *noun, pl* **bands** [*count*]
1 : a usually small group of musicians who play popular music together ▪ The *band's* drummer is also the lead singer. ▪ a rock-and-roll *band* ▪ a jazz *band* — compare ORCHESTRA; see also BIG BAND, BRASS BAND, GARAGE BAND, MARCHING BAND, ONE-MAN BAND
2 : a group of people or animals ▪ A *band* of scientists ques-

tioned the theory. ▪ She photographed a *band* of gorillas. ▪ a *band* of hunters from the tribe

3 : a flat, straight piece of material (such as plastic or metal) that forms a circle around something ▪ A *band* of plastic holds the lid on the container. ▪ They placed a metal *band* with an identification number on the bird's leg. ▪ She lost her ***wedding band*** [=*wedding ring*] — see also ARMBAND, RUBBER BAND, SWEATBAND, WAISTBAND

4 : a strip of something that is different from what is around it : a thick line ▪ The bird has black *bands* above its eyes. ▪ The dress has an embroidered *band* at the hem. — often + *of* ▪ There is a *band of* white near the hem of the dress. ▪ A *band of* thunderstorms crossed the area late last night. ▪ They left a narrow *band of* grass growing near the street.

5 *technical* : a range of frequencies over which radio signals are broadcast ▪ The radio station broadcasts on the AM *band*.

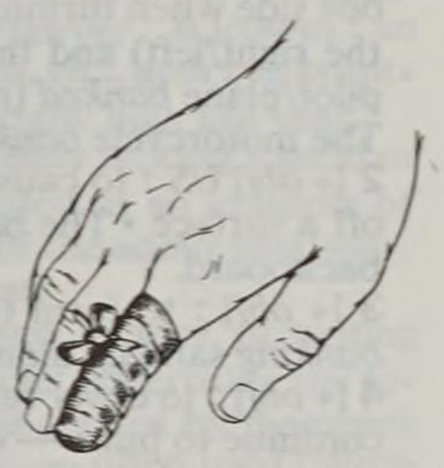
6 *Brit* : a range or group between a lower and an upper limit : BRACKET ▪ People in younger age *bands* may be in higher or lower tax *bands*.

to beat the band *US, informal* : in a very forceful or obvious way ▪ He was snoring *to beat the band*. [=he was snoring very loudly]

[2]band *verb* **bands; band•ed; band•ing**

band together [*phrasal verb*] : to form a group in order to do or achieve something ▪ They *banded together* for protection. ▪ If we *band together*, we can meet the deadline.

[1]ban•dage /ˈbændɪʤ/ *noun, pl* **-dag•es** [*count*] : a covering (such as a strip of cloth) that protects or supports part of the body that has been hurt ▪ He wrapped a *bandage* around his knee. ▪ She put a *bandage* on/over the cut.



bandage

[2]bandage *verb* **-dag•es; -daged; -dag•ing** [+ *obj*] : to cover or wrap (something) with a bandage ▪ She *bandaged* (up) their wounds. ▪ He arrived with a *bandaged* ankle.

[1]Band–Aid /ˈbænd|eɪd/ *trademark* — used for a small bandage

[2]Band–Aid *adj, always used before a noun, disapproving* : able to help or improve something only for a short period of time ▪ a *Band-Aid* solution to the problem

ban•dan•na *also* **ban•dana** /bænˈdænə/ *noun, pl* **-dannas** *also* **-dan•as** [*count*] : a square piece of cloth that is used as a head covering or worn around the neck

B and B *noun, pl* **B and Bs** [*count*] : BED-AND-BREAKFAST ▪ We stayed at a nice *B and B* near the beach.

band•ed /ˈbændəd/ *adj* : having or marked by narrow strips of different color : having or marked by bands ▪ a hawk with a *banded* tail ▪ a *banded* rock

ban•dit /ˈbændət/ *noun, pl* **-dits** [*count*] : a criminal who attacks and steals from travelers and who is often a member of a group of criminals ▪ They were two of the most famous *bandits* [=*outlaws, robbers*] of the 19th century. — see also ONE-ARMED BANDIT

– ban•dit•ry /ˈbændətri/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ They were charged with *banditry* and smuggling.

band•lead•er /ˈbænd|liːdɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : a person who leads a band of musicians; *especially* : the leader of a band that plays jazz or dance music

band•mas•ter /ˈbænd|mæstɚ, *Brit* ˈbænd|mɑːstə/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : BANDLEADER; *especially* : the leader of a brass band or a military band

ban•do•lier *or* **ban•do•leer** /|bændəˈliɚ/ *noun, pl* **-liers** *or* **-leers** [*count*] : a belt that is worn over the shoulder and across the body and that holds bullets

band saw *noun, pl* **~ saws** [*count*] : a type of powered saw that is used especially for making curved cuts in wood

bands•man /ˈbændzmən/ *noun, pl* **-men** [*count*] : a musician who plays in a brass band or military band

band•stand /ˈbænd|stænd/ *noun, pl* **-stands** [*count*]

1 : a covered outdoor platform on which a band or orchestra plays

2 *US* : a raised indoor platform on which a band or orchestra plays

band•wag•on /ˈbænd|wægən/ *noun, pl* **-ons** [*count*] : a popular activity, effort, cause, etc., that attracts growing support — usually singular ▪ trying to get/keep a political *bandwagon* rolling ▪ Local leaders ***jumped on the bandwagon*** in support of the legislation. ▪ Many companies are ***getting/climbing on the bandwagon*** and offering flexible schedules to their employees.

band•width /ˈbænd|wɪdθ/ *noun, pl* **-widths** *technical* : a measurement of the ability of an electronic communications device or system (such as a computer network) to send and receive information [*count*] The modem has a *bandwidth* of 56 kilobits per second. [*noncount*] Graphics use more *bandwidth* than text does.

ban•dy /ˈbændi/ *verb* **-dies; -died; -dy•ing**

bandy about *also* ***bandy around*** [*phrasal verb*] ***bandy (something) about/around*** *or* ***bandy about/around (something)*** : to discuss or mention (something) in a casual or informal way ▪ The candidate hasn't chosen a running mate yet, but some names have been *bandied about*. ▪ The idea had been *bandied about* several years earlier.

bandy words *old-fashioned* : to say angry words in an argument : ARGUE ▪ I don't want to *bandy words* with you.

bane /ˈbeɪn/ *noun* [*singular*] : a cause of trouble, annoyance, or unhappiness — usually used in the phrase ***the bane of*** ▪ The ugly school uniforms were *the bane of* the students' lives. ▪ She was *the bane of* my existence. [=she made my life very unhappy, difficult, etc.]

bane•ful /ˈbeɪnfəl/ *adj, formal + literary* : causing destruction or serious damage : bad or evil ▪ The legislation could have a *baneful* effect on the poor. ▪ the *baneful* consequences of war

[1]bang /ˈbæŋ/ *verb* **bangs; banged; bang•ing**

1 a [+ *obj*] : to cause or allow (something, such as part of your body) to hit something in a way that makes a loud noise ▪ He accidentally *banged* his knee against the door. ▪ He *banged* [=*bumped, struck*] his head getting out of the car. ▪ She fell and *banged* her elbow. ▪ She *banged* her fist on the table. ▪ He *banged* his empty glass on the counter. **b** : to hit (something or someone) in a way that makes a loud noise [+ *obj*] His knee accidentally *banged* the door. ▪ The chair fell over and *banged* the wall. [*no obj*] — usually + *into* or *against* ▪ His knee accidentally *banged into* the door. ▪ I thought the door was open and *banged* [=*bumped*] right *into* it. ▪ The bird *banged into/against* the window. ▪ One of the other players *banged into* her, knocking her to the ground.

2 : to use your hand or a tool to beat or hit (something) in a way that makes a loud noise [+ *obj*] He *banged* the drum. ▪ She *banged* the table with her fist. [*no obj*] — + *on* ▪ He *banged on* the drum. ▪ She *banged on* the table. ▪ Who is *banging* [=*pounding*] *on* the door? — see also *bang the drum for* at [1]DRUM

3 [*no obj*] : to make a sudden loud noise ▪ I could hear the screen door *bang* [=*slam*] as he left. ▪ The window suddenly *banged* shut. ▪ The pipes *banged* as the heat came on.

4 [+ *obj*] *informal + offensive* : to have sex with (someone)

bang away [*phrasal verb*] *US, informal* : to work hard at something ▪ We have to keep *banging away* if we want to finish on time. — often + *at* ▪ The students are *banging away at* their homework.

bang heads together *informal* : to use angry or forceful methods to control or punish people ▪ I am going to go in there and *bang* their *heads together* if they don't start behaving.

bang on about [*phrasal verb*] ***bang on about (something)*** *Brit, informal* : to talk about (something) repeatedly or for a long time ▪ She's always *banging on about* [=*going on about*] the importance of a good diet.

bang out [*phrasal verb*] ***bang out (something)*** *or* ***bang (something) out*** *informal* **1** : to produce (something) quickly ▪ He *banged out* the speech in just a few hours. ▪ The two sides are trying to *bang out* an agreement. **2** : to play (a song, melody, etc.) loudly on a piano ▪ She carelessly *banged out* a few melodies on the piano.

bang up [*phrasal verb*] **1** ***bang up (something or someone)*** *or* ***bang (something or someone) up*** *US, informal* : to injure or damage (something or someone) ▪ She *banged up* [=*hurt*] her knee. ▪ He *banged up* the car. ▪ He was pretty badly *banged up* [=*injured*] in the accident. **2** ***bang up (someone)*** *or* ***bang (someone) up*** *Brit slang* : to put (someone) in prison ▪ He got *banged up* [=*locked up*] for robbery.

[2]bang *noun, pl* **bangs**

1 a [*count*] : a sudden loud noise ▪ I heard a loud *bang*. ▪ The door slammed shut with a *bang*. **b** — used as an interjection to imitate a loud noise (such as the sound of a gun being fired) ▪ "*Bang, bang*! You're dead." ✧ In British English the informal phrase ***bang goes*** is used when you are saying that something you wanted or planned has become impossible. ▪

The airport closed and *bang went* our holiday plans! [=our holiday plans were ruined because the airport closed]

2 [*count*] : a hard hit or blow • She got a nasty *bang* [=*bump*] on her head.

bang for the buck *also* ***bang for your buck*** *US, informal* — used to describe how much value is received when money is spent • This restaurant offers people the most *bang for the buck*. [=offers more than other restaurants for the same price] • He claims that the new stadium offers taxpayers too little *bang for the buck*. [=that the new stadium is not worth the tax money that is being spent on it]

get a bang out of *US, informal* : to enjoy (something) very much • You'll *get a bang out of* [=you'll like] this story. • She *got a bang out of* [=*got a kick out of*] watching her grandson at the beach.

with a bang : in a sudden and exciting way • The movie begins/starts *with a bang* and never slows down.

[3]bang *adv, Brit, informal* : exactly or directly • There it was—*bang* [=*right*] in front of us! • The show began *bang* on time. — see also *bang to rights* at [3]RIGHT

bang on *Brit, informal* : exactly right • His explanation was *bang on*. [=*spot-on*]

bang·er /ˈbæŋɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] *Brit, informal*

1 : SAUSAGE • We ordered ***bangers and mash***. [=sausages and mashed potatoes]

2 : FIRECRACKER

3 : an old car that is in poor condition : JALOPY

ban·gle /ˈbæŋgəl/ *noun, pl* **ban·gles** [*count*] : a large stiff ring that is worn as jewelry around the arm, wrist, or ankle • She wore plastic *bangles* on both wrists. — see color picture on page C11

bangs /ˈbæŋz/ *noun* [*plural*] *US* : the front section of a person's hair when it is cut short and worn over the forehead • She wears her hair in *bangs*. = She has *bangs*. • She pushed her *bangs* off her forehead. — called also (*Brit*) *fringe*; see picture at HAIR

bang–up /ˈbæŋˌʌp/ *adj, always used before a noun, US, informal* : very good or excellent • We had a *bang-up* [=*fine, first-rate*] time at the party. • She did ***a bang-up job*** on/with the presentation.

ban·ish /ˈbænɪʃ/ *verb* **-ish·es**; **-ished**; **-ish·ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to force (someone) to leave a country as punishment : EXILE • He was *banished* for life. • The dictator *banished* anyone who opposed him.

2 : to send (someone or something) away — often + *from* or *to* • He was *banished from* court. • They want to *banish* her *from* the sport. • She *banished* the dogs *to* the basement during the party. • The reporters were *banished to* another room.

3 : to cause (something) to go away : to get rid of (something) • His assurances *banished* [=*alleviated*] our fears. • She tried to *banish* all thoughts of him from her mind. [=she tried not to think about him] • They *banished* [=*eliminated*] red meat from their diet.

– **ban·ish·ment** /ˈbænɪʃmənt/ *noun* [*noncount*]

ban·is·ter *also* **ban·nis·ter** /ˈbænəstɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ters** [*count*] : a structure like a fence with a bar on top that is built along the side of a set of stairs • The children love to slide down the *banister*. • She held the *banister* tightly. — sometimes plural in British English • She held the *banisters* tightly.

ban·jo /ˈbændʒoʊ/ *noun, pl* **-jos** [*count*] : a musical instrument like a small guitar with a round body, a long neck, and four or five strings • I'm learning to play the *banjo*. = (*US*) I'm learning to play *banjo*. • a *banjo* player

[1]bank /ˈbæŋk/ *noun, pl* **banks** [*count*]

1 : a business where people keep their money, borrow money, etc., or the building where such a business operates • Our paychecks are deposited in/into the *bank* automatically. • How much money do you have in the *bank*? • My cousin works in/at a *bank*. • I have to go to the *bank* today. — often used before another noun • *bank* customers • How much money do you have in your *bank* account? — see also SAVINGS BANK

2 : a small closed container in which money is saved • She saves all her change in a small *bank* on her desk. — see also PIGGY BANK

3 : a place where a particular thing is stored until it is needed • information stored in a computer's memory *banks* — see also BLOOD BANK, SPERM BANK

break the bank : to be very expensive or too expensive : to cost a lot of money — usually used in negative statements • Buy a car that's dependable but won't *break the bank*.

laugh all the way to the bank see [1]LAUGH

– compare [3]BANK, [5]BANK

[2]bank *verb* **banks**; **banked**; **bank·ing**

1 [*no obj*] : to have money in a bank : to use the services of a bank • We *bank* locally. • Where do you *bank*? [=which bank do you use?]

2 [+ *obj*] : to put (something, such as money) in a bank • *bank* a check

bank on [*phrasal verb*] ***bank on (something)*** : to feel confident or sure about (something) • We're *banking on* [=*counting on*] fair weather for the trip. • She may support us, but don't *bank on* [=*rely on, depend on*] it.

– compare [4]BANK

[3]bank *noun, pl* **banks** [*count*]

1 : the higher ground that is along the edge of a river, stream, etc. • We sat on the *bank* of the river [=on the riverbank] to watch the boats. • The stream overflowed its *banks*.

2 a : a steep slope : the side of a hill • We planted bushes all along the *bank* in front of the house. • They climbed a steep *bank* to get to the terrace. — see also SANDBANK **b** : a small hill that is built next to a road along a curve in order to make driving on that section of road safer

3 : a thick mass of clouds or fog • a fog *bank* • A *bank* of dark clouds entered the region. — see also SNOWBANK

– compare [1]BANK, [5]BANK

[4]bank *verb* **banks**; **banked**; **banking**

1 : to cause (something, such as an airplane) to tilt or lean to one side when turning [+ *obj*] The pilot *banked* the plane (to the right/left) and then leveled it out to land. [*no obj*] The pilot/plane *banked* (right/left) and then leveled out to land. • The motorcycle *banked* steeply as it went around the curve.

2 [+ *obj*] *US* : to cause (something, such as a ball) to bounce off a surface • The basketball player *banked* the ball off the backboard.

3 [+ *obj*] : to form (something) into a pile — often + *up* • *banking* sand *up* along the river to prevent flooding

4 [+ *obj*] : to cover (a fire) with fresh fuel in order to make it continue to burn — often + *up* • *bank up* a campfire

– compare [2]BANK

[5]bank *noun, pl* **banks** [*count*] : a group or series of objects that are arranged close together in a row — usually + *of* • There is a *bank of* vending machines in the basement. • Several *banks of* lights hung above the stage. • a *bank of* file cabinets — compare [1]BANK, [3]BANK

bank·able /ˈbæŋkəbəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : certain to make a profit — used of people in the movie business • a *bankable* director [=a director who makes movies that earn a profit] • She is one of Hollywood's most *bankable* stars. [=if she is in a movie, the movie will make money]

bank·book /ˈbæŋkˌbʊk/ *noun, pl* **-books** [*count*] : a book in which a bank customer keeps a record of the money added to and taken from a bank account — called also *passbook*

bank card /ˈbæŋkˌkɑɚd/ *noun, pl* ~ **cards** [*count*]

1 *US* : a card (such as a credit card or debit card) that you get from your bank and that you use to pay for things or to get money from an ATM

2 *Brit* : CHEQUE CARD

bank draft *noun, pl* ~ **drafts** [*count*] : a check from one bank to another bank for money to be paid to a particular person or organization ✧ In order to write a bank draft to another bank, a bank must have money in an account at that bank.

bank·er /ˈbæŋkɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : a person who owns a bank or who has an important job in a bank

banker's card *noun, pl* ~ **cards** [*count*] *Brit* : CHEQUE CARD

bank holiday *noun, pl* ~ **-days** [*count*] *Brit* : LEGAL HOLIDAY

banking *noun* [*noncount*] : the business of operating a bank • They are both in *banking*. • He chose *banking* as a career. • the *banking* industry

banknote *noun, pl* **-notes** [*count*] : a piece of paper money : NOTE • a $10 *banknote*

bank rate *noun, pl* ~ **rates** [*count*] : the rate of interest that is charged by the banks in a particular country ✧ The bank rate is set by a country's main bank.

[1]bank·roll /ˈbæŋkˌroʊl/ *verb* **-rolls**; **-rolled**; **-rol·ling** [+ *obj*] *chiefly US, informal* : to supply money for (a business, project, person, etc.) • His parents *bankrolled* [=*paid for*] his college education. • The company is *bankrolling* [=*financing*] the film.

[2]bankroll *noun* [*singular*] *chiefly US* : a supply of money •

They started the business with a fairly small *bankroll*.

[1]bank•rupt /ˈbæŋkˌrʌpt/ *adj*

1 : unable to pay debts • a *bankrupt* company • The lawsuit could leave them *bankrupt*. • The company ***went bankrupt*** [=became unable to pay its debts]

2 — used to say that someone or something completely lacks a good or desired quality • After 10 years in a bad marriage, she was *bankrupt* emotionally. [=empty of emotions; not able to feel emotions] • a ***morally bankrupt*** politician [=an immoral politician; a politician who has no morals]

[2]bankrupt *verb* **-rupts**; **-rupt•ed**; **-rupt•ing** [+ *obj*] : to cause (a person, business, etc.) to be unable to pay debts : to make (someone or something) bankrupt • Several risky deals *bankrupted* the company.

[3]bankrupt *noun, pl* **-rupts** [*count*] : a person, business, etc., that is unable to pay debts • As a lawyer, she specialized in working with *bankrupts*.

bank•rupt•cy /ˈbæŋkˌrʌptsi/ *noun, pl* **-cies**

1 a [*noncount*] : the condition of being bankrupt : a condition of financial failure caused by not having the money that you need to pay your debts • The company is facing *bankruptcy*. • The company ***filed for bankruptcy*** [=officially asked to be legally recognized as bankrupt] in July. • He ***declared bankruptcy*** [=formally said that he was bankrupt in a legal document] • The company is now ***in bankruptcy*** [=has been officially recognized as bankrupt] • The company was forced ***into bankruptcy*** — often used before another noun • *bankruptcy* court/law • a *bankruptcy* judge/lawyer **b** [*count*] : an occurrence in which a person, business, etc., goes bankrupt • The number of *bankruptcies* was especially high last year.

2 [*noncount*] : the condition of completely lacking a good or desired quality • Critics view the decision as an example of moral/ethical *bankruptcy* on the part of the administration.

[1]ban•ner /ˈbænɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ners** [*count*]

1 a : a large strip of cloth with a design, picture, or writing on it • A *banner* was hung over the street advertising the local theater production. • *Banners* were carried by members of each group marching in the parade. — often used figuratively • Both candidates are running ***under the banner of*** "no new taxes." [=both candidates are using "no new taxes" as a slogan] • a group of scientists gathering together *under the banner of* NASA [=in a meeting/event set up by NASA] • changes made *under the banner of* "restoring order" [=for the officially stated purpose of restoring order] **b** *literary* : FLAG • The Star-Spangled *Banner*

2 : words printed in large letters at the top of a newspaper's front page under the name of the newspaper — called also *banner headline*

3 : an advertisement that is across the top of a page on the World Wide Web — called also *banner ad*

[2]banner *adj, always used before a noun, US* : unusually good • It was a *banner* year for the sales department. • The team had a *banner* season last year.

bannister *variant spelling of* BANISTER

banns /ˈbænz/ *noun* [*plural*] : a public statement which announces that two people are going to be married • The *banns* (of marriage) were posted in the church.

ban•quet /ˈbæŋkwət/ *noun, pl* **-quets** [*count*] : a formal dinner for many people usually to celebrate a special event • They held a *banquet* in his honor. — often used before another noun • a *banquet* hall/room/table

– **ban•quet•ing** /ˈbæŋkwətɪŋ/ *adj, always used before a noun, chiefly Brit* • a *banqueting* hall/room/table

ban•shee /ˈbænˌʃi:/ *noun, pl* **-shees** [*count*] : a female spirit in Irish and Scottish stories who cries loudly to warn people that someone is going to die soon • I heard someone wailing/screaming ***like a banshee***

ban•tam /ˈbæntəm/ *noun, pl* **-tams** [*count*] : a kind of small chicken

ban•tam•weight /ˈbæntəmˌweɪt/ *noun, pl* **-weights** [*count*] : a fighter in a class of boxers who weigh from 112 to 119 pounds (51 to 54 kilograms) — often used before another noun • He won the *bantamweight* title. • a *bantamweight* fighter

ban•ter /ˈbæntɚ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : talk in which people make jokes about each other in a friendly way • two friends trading/exchanging lively/witty *banter* (with each other) • I enjoyed hearing their good-natured *banter*.

– **banter** *verb* **-ters**; **-tered**; **-ter•ing** [*no obj*] • two friends *bantering* with each other

ban•yan /ˈbænjən/ *noun, pl* **-yans** [*count*] : an Indian tree with long branches that send roots down to the ground forming secondary trunks — called also *banyan tree*



banyan

bap /ˈbæp/ *noun, pl* **baps** [*count*] *Brit* : BUN 1

bap•tism /ˈbæpˌtɪzəm/ *noun, pl* **-tisms** : a Christian ceremony in which a small amount of water is placed on a person's head or in which a person's body is briefly placed under water ✧ A baptism officially makes someone a member of the Christian Church. [*count*] There were over 100 *baptisms* at our church last year. [*noncount*] He received the sacrament of *baptism* as an infant. — often used figuratively • The interview was a *baptism* into journalism for the young writer. [=it was the young writer's first experience as a journalist] ✧ A ***baptism of fire*** or (*chiefly US*) ***baptism by fire*** is a first experience that is very difficult or painful, such as the first time that soldiers are in a battle. • He described his troop's *baptism of fire* on the front lines. • Covering the disaster was a *baptism by fire* for the young reporter.

– **bap•tis•mal** /bæpˈtʰɪzməɬ/ *adj, always used before a noun* • The priest stood at the *baptismal* font. • a *baptismal* certificate

Bap•tist /ˈbæpˌtɪst/ *noun, pl* **-tists** [*count*] : a member of a Christian church in which members are baptized only as adults

– **Baptist** *adj* • He attends the *Baptist* church. • a *Baptist* preacher/service

bap•tize *also Brit* **bap•tise** /ˈbæpˌtaɪz, bæpˈtaɪz/ *verb* **-tiz•es**; **-tized**; **-tiz•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to perform the ceremony of baptism for (someone) • The priest *baptized* the baby. • She was *baptized* at the age of 20.

2 : to officially make someone a member of a specified Christian church through the ceremony of baptism — usually used as *(be) baptized* • She *was baptized* a Catholic/Methodist when she was a teenager.

3 : to give (someone) a name through the ceremony of baptism — usually used as *(be) baptized* • He *was baptized* [=*christened*] "John" when he was two months old.

[1]bar /ˈbɑɚ/ *noun, pl* **bars**

1 [*count*] **a** : a building or room where alcoholic drinks and sometimes food are served • We went to a *bar* for a drink. — see also SPORTS BAR, TIKI BAR **b** : a counter where alcoholic drinks are served • We sat at the restaurant's *bar* while we were waiting for a table. — see also CASH BAR, OPEN BAR, WET BAR **c** : a building or room where a particular food or drink is served • a seafood *bar* • a juice/coffee *bar* — see also SALAD BAR, SNACK BAR

2 [*count*] : a straight piece of metal, wood, etc., that is used as a tool, as part of a structure, or to keep people from entering or leaving through a door or window • There were *bars* across all the windows. • The door was secured with an iron *bar*. • The pole-vaulter narrowly cleared the *bar*. [=the long bar that is set at a specific height and that a jumper tries to go over] ✧ In U.S. English, *bar* is used figuratively in phrases like ***raise/lower the bar*** and ***set the bar higher/lower*** to refer to changing the standard that is used to judge whether someone or something is good, successful, etc. • The company's new software *raises the bar* for its competitors. [=the company's new software is very good and its competitors will have to produce better software to compete with it] • Critics say that he has *lowered the bar* on what is considered acceptable behavior by politicians. [=he has caused people to accept worse behavior by politicians] — see also CROSSBAR, CROWBAR, PARALLEL BARS, UNEVEN BARS

3 [*count*] : a solid piece of something that is shaped like a rectangle • She bought a chocolate/candy *bar*. • a *bar* of soap

4 [*count*] : a straight line, stripe, or section that is longer than it is wide • The bird's tail has an alternating series of white and black *bars*. [=*bands*] • a ***menu bar*** [=a narrow section that is across the screen in a computer program and that shows the names of available menus] — see also BAR CODE, BAR GRAPH, TASK BAR, TOOLBAR

5 [*count*] *formal* : something that makes it difficult or impossible to do or achieve something — + *to* • His poor attitude was a *bar to* his success. [=his poor attitude prevented him from succeeding]

6 *the bar* **a** *US* : the profession of a lawyer • She is a member of *the bar*. [=she is a lawyer] • the American *Bar* Association • She has been ***called to the bar*** [=she has become a law-

yer] **b** *or* ***the Bar*** *Brit* : the profession of a barrister **c** *US* : the test that a person must pass in order to be a lawyer ▪ She passed *the bar* on her first try. ▪ *the bar* exam/examination

7 [*count*] *music* **a** : a line in written music that shows where a measure begins **b** : the beats between two bars in a piece of music ▪ I'm not sure I know that song. Can you hum a few *bars*? [=*measures*]

behind bars : in jail ▪ He has been *behind bars* for 10 years.

tend bar *US* : to work as a bartender : to prepare and serve drinks at a bar ▪ He *tends bar* at the restaurant.

²bar *verb* **bars**; **barred**; **bar·ring** [+ *obj*]

1 : to put a bar or a set of bars in front of a door, window, etc., so that people cannot go in or out of it ▪ He *barred* the door as soon as he got in. ▪ All the windows and doors were *barred*. ▪ a *barred* window

2 : to put something in a road, path, etc., so that people cannot get by ▪ A herd of goats was *barring* the road. ▪ obstacles *barring* our way

3 a : to prevent or forbid (someone) *from* doing something ▪ Nothing *barred* them *from* meeting together. ▪ The judge will *bar* the jurors *from* talking to reporters. ▪ A federal court has *barred* the group *from* using the name. ▪ Reporters were *barred* [=*excluded*] *from* the meeting. [=reporters were not allowed to go to the meeting] **b** : to prevent or forbid (something) ▪ The decision *bars* the possibility of additional development in the area. ▪ forms of punishment *barred* by the Constitution

no holds barred see ²HOLD

³bar *prep*

1 — used in the phrase ***bar none*** to emphasize that a statement is completely true ▪ She is the brightest student I've ever known, *bar none*. [=I have never known a student who is brighter than she is]

2 *Brit* : except for : BARRING ▪ They have lost every match, *bar* one.

barb /ˈbɑɚb/ *noun, pl* **barbs** [*count*]

1 : a sharp point that sticks out and backward from the point of an arrow, a fishhook, etc.

2 : a clever insult or criticism ▪ She directed/aimed a few *barbs* at reporters who had hounded her. ▪ The candidates exchanged *barbs* during the debate.

bar·bar·i·an /bɑɚˈberijən/ *noun, pl* **-ans** [*count*]

1 : a member of a violent or uncivilized group of people especially in past times ▪ The book describes tribes of *barbarians* massing on the borders of the Roman Empire. ▪ The city was invaded by *barbarians*. — often used before another noun ▪ *Barbarian* tribes invaded from the north. ▪ a *barbarian* invasion/attack

2 : a person who does not behave in a proper way : a rude or uneducated person ▪ The students behaved like *barbarians*. ▪ He is well-spoken and polite but his father is a *barbarian*.

bar·bar·ic /bɑɚˈberɪk/ *adj*

1 : of or relating to barbarians ▪ *Barbaric* tribes invaded the area.

2 [*more* ~; *most* ~] **a** : very rude or offensive : not polite or proper ▪ His table manners are *barbaric*. **b** : very cruel ▪ They considered the custom *barbaric*. ▪ The treatment of the prisoners was positively *barbaric*.

– **bar·bar·ic·al·ly** /bɑɚˈberɪkli/ *adv*

bar·ba·rism /ˈbɑɚbəˌrɪzəm/ *noun, pl* **-risms**

1 : cruel and violent behavior [*noncount*] The *barbarism* of his dictatorship cannot be ignored. [*count*] Such *barbarisms* cannot be tolerated.

2 [*noncount*] : very rude behavior ▪ acts of social *barbarism*

bar·bar·i·ty /bɑɚˈberəti/ *noun, pl* **-ties**

1 [*noncount*] : extreme cruelty : a very cruel and violent quality ▪ The *barbarity* of the attack was horrifying. ▪ The photos vividly capture the war's *barbarity*.

2 [*count*] : a cruel act ▪ He is accused of inflicting unimaginable *barbarities* on his own people.

bar·ba·rous /ˈbɑɚbərəs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

1 : not polite or proper : very rude or offensive ▪ His behavior was *barbarous*. ▪ They used *barbarous* language.

2 : very cruel and violent ▪ It was a *barbarous* [=*barbaric*] crime. ▪ a *barbarous* custom

– **bar·ba·rous·ly** *adv* – **bar·ba·rous·ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

¹bar·be·cue /ˈbɑɚbɪˌkju:/ *noun, pl* **-cues**

1 [*count*] : a flat metal frame that is used to cook food over hot coals or an open fire ▪ grill a steak on the *barbecue*

2 [*count*] : an outdoor meal or party at which food is cooked on a barbecue ▪ We plan to have a *barbecue* for the whole family. — abbr. *BBQ*

3 [*noncount*] *chiefly US, informal* : food that has been cooked on a barbecue : barbecued food ▪ She invited us over for some beer and *barbecue*. ▪ He makes a ***barbecue sauce*** [=a spicy sauce that is usually eaten with barbecued food] that tastes great with chicken.

²barbecue *verb* **-cues**; **-cued**; **-cu·ing** : to cook (food) on a barbecue : to broil or roast (meat, fish, etc.) over hot coals or an open fire [+ *obj*] We *barbecued* chicken and ribs. [*no obj*] We *barbecue* often during the summer.

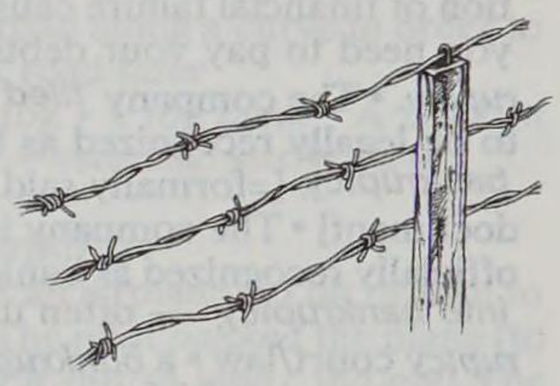
– **barbecued** *adj* ▪ They served *barbecued* chicken/shrimp/pork at the cookout.

barbed /ˈbɑɚbd/ *adj*

1 : having a sharp point that sticks out and backward from a larger point : having a barb ▪ a *barbed* fishhook

2 : expressing criticism in an unkind and often clever way ▪ The candidates exchanged *barbed* comments during the debate.

barbed wire *noun* [*noncount*] : wire that has sharp points and that is often used for fences ▪ a fence made of *barbed wire* = a *barbed-wire* fence — called also (*US*) *barbwire*



barbed wire

bar·bell /ˈbɑɚˌbɛl/ *noun, pl* **-bells** [*count*] : a metal bar with weights at each end that is used for exercise and in weight lifting — see picture at GYM

bar·ber /ˈbɑɚbɚ/ *noun, pl* **-bers** [*count*] : a person whose job is to cut men's hair ▪ He goes to a *barber* downtown. ▪ He went to the *barber's* [=(*chiefly US*) *barbershop*] to get a haircut.

bar·ber·shop /ˈbɑɚbɚˌʃɑ:p/ *noun, pl* **-shops** [*count*] *chiefly US* : a place where a barber works

barbershop quartet *noun, pl* ~ **-tets** [*count*] : a group of four male singers who sing in an old-fashioned style without instruments

bar·bie /ˈbɑɚbi/ *noun, pl* **-bies** [*count*] *chiefly Brit + Australia, informal* : ¹BARBECUE

bar·bit·u·rate /bɑɚˈbɪʧərət/ *noun, pl* **-rates** [*count*] *medical* : any of various drugs that are used to calm people or to make them sleep

barb·wire /ˈbɑɚbˈwajɚ/ *noun* [*noncount*] *US* : BARBED WIRE ▪ a *barbwire* fence

bar chart *noun, pl* ~ **charts** [*count*] : BAR GRAPH

bar code *noun, pl* ~ **codes** [*count*] : a group of thick and thin lines that is placed on a product so that a computer can get the price of the product and other information about it



bar code

bard /ˈbɑɚd/ *noun, pl* **bards** [*count*] *old-fashioned + literary* : POET ✧ The poet and playwright William Shakespeare is sometimes called ***the Bard*** or ***the Bard of Avon***. ▪ As *the Bard* says, "All the world's a stage."

¹bare /ˈbeɚ/ *adj* **bar·er**; **bar·est**

1 a : not having a covering ▪ There was a rug in the front room of the house, but the other floors were *bare*. ▪ The walls were *bare*. ▪ Do not let the *bare* wires touch. — sometimes used figuratively ▪ He ***laid bare*** his soul. = He *laid* his soul *bare*. [=he revealed his most private thoughts and feelings] ▪ The book is an attempt to ***lay bare*** [=*reveal*, *uncover*] the secrets of this very powerful political family. **b** : not covered by clothing, shoes, a hat, etc. ▪ He covered her *bare* arms with his coat. ▪ Her feet were *bare*. = She had *bare* feet. [=she wasn't wearing shoes or socks on her feet] ▪ He had a glove on his left hand, but his right hand was *bare*. ▪ His head is *bare*. [=he does not have a hat on] — see also *with your bare hands* at ¹HAND **c** : not covered by leaves, grass, trees, or plants ▪ She likes the *bare* [=*naked*] branches of trees in the winter. ▪ The ground was *bare* where the statue had stood for years. ▪ The mountainside was ***laid bare*** by loggers. [=all the trees on the mountainside were cut down by loggers]

2 a : not containing anything : EMPTY ▪ The cupboard was *bare*. ▪ There was only one *bare* shelf. **b** : having little or no furniture ▪ a *bare* room ▪ Her office was pretty *bare*, having

only one desk and one chair. ▪ This is the *barest* room in the house.

3 *always used before a noun* : not having anything added or extra : including only what is most basic or needed ▪ He only told me the *bare* facts about what happened. ▪ We packed only the *bare* essentials for the hike. [=we packed only what we really needed for the hike] ▪ They had only the *bare* [=*basic*] necessities (of life): food, water, and shelter. ▪ He's lazy and only does the *bare* minimum of work. [=he does the least amount of work possible] ▪ a *bare* majority [=the smallest possible majority] ▪ She added the *barest* [=*smallest*] pinch of salt.

– **bare•ness** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the *bareness* of the walls/land

²bare *verb* **bares**; **bared**; **bar•ing** [+ *obj*] : to remove the covering from (something) ▪ He *bared* his chest to show the scar. ▪ The dog growled and *bared* [=*exposed*] its teeth. ▪ She was asked to ***bare (it) all*** for the magazine. [=she was asked to pose nude for the magazine] — sometimes used figuratively ▪ She *bared* [=*revealed, told*] her fears to him. ▪ He *bared all* [=told the whole story] in the interview. ▪ He ***bared his soul*** to me. [=he told me his most private thoughts and feelings]

Do not confuse *bare* with *bear*.

bare•back /ˈbeɚˌbæk/ *adv* : without a saddle : on the bare back of a horse ▪ We rode *bareback*.

– **bareback** *adj* ▪ He likes *bareback* riding. ▪ a *bareback* rider

bare bones *noun*

the bare bones : the most basic or important facts or parts of something ▪ The company reduced the staff to *the bare bones*. [=the company's staff only includes people who are absolutely needed] — often + *of* ▪ What are *the bare bones of* the story?

bare–bones *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : including only what is most basic or needed ▪ a *bare-bones* Web site ▪ a *bare-bones* wedding ceremony ▪ The hotel rooms are *bare-bones*.

bare•faced /ˈbeɚˈfeɪst/ *adj, always used before a noun* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *disapproving* : completely obvious ▪ a ***barefaced lie*** ▪ a ***barefaced liar***

bare•foot /ˈbeɚˌfʊt/ *or* **bare•foot•ed** /ˈbeɚˌfʊtəd/ *adv* : without shoes : with the feet bare ▪ We walked *barefoot* in the stream.

– **barefoot** *or* **barefooted** *adj* ▪ *barefoot* children ▪ He was *barefoot*.

bare–hand•ed /ˈbeɚˌhændəd/ *adv* : with the hand or hands only : without using a tool, weapon, glove, etc. ▪ She caught the ball *bare-handed*.

– **bare–handed** *adj* ▪ She made a *bare-handed* catch.

bare•head•ed /ˈbeɚˈhɛdəd/ *adv* : without a hat : with the head bare ▪ He left the house *bareheaded*.

– **bareheaded** *adj* ▪ a *bareheaded* man

bare–knuck•le /ˈbeɚˈnʌkəl/ *also* **bare–knuck•led** /ˈbeɚˈnʌkəld/ *or* **bare–knuck•les** /ˈbeɚˈnʌkəlz/ *adj, always used before a noun* : without boxing gloves ▪ a *bare-knuckle* fight/fighter ▪ a *bare-knuckled* punch — often used figuratively ▪ a *bare-knuckles* approach to doing business [=a very tough and aggressive approach to doing business] ▪ *bare-knuckle* politics

bare•ly /ˈbeɚli/ *adv*

1 a : hardly or scarcely — used to say that something was almost not possible or almost did not happen ▪ I *barely* recognized you with your hair cut short. ▪ He could *barely* walk/read/write. ▪ His voice was *barely* audible above the sound of the river. ▪ The boat was *barely* visible off the coast. ▪ We *barely* [=almost do not] have enough money to pay the bills. ▪ I *barely* [=almost do not] have time to eat my lunch. ▪ He *barely* made his flight. [=he almost was too late for his flight] **b** — used to say that someone or something only has a specified small size, age, length, etc. ▪ The movie is (just) *barely* an hour long. ▪ He's *barely* a teenager. ▪ She's *barely* four feet tall. ▪ *Barely* 50 percent of the population voted. **c** — used to say that something reached a specifed condition or happened only a short time before ▪ The paint is *barely* dry. ▪ They had *barely* [=*just*] set up the tents when it started to rain.

2 a : almost not at all ▪ We *barely* spoke the entire time we were in the car. ▪ I *barely* knew him. **b** : almost not ▪ There are *barely* any new features in this software. ▪ There is *barely* a difference between the two.

barf /ˈbɑɚf/ *verb* **barfs**; **barfed**; **barf•ing** [*no obj*] *US, informal* : VOMIT ▪ The movie was so disgusting that it made me want to *barf*.

bar•fly /ˈbɑɚˌflaɪ/ *noun, pl* **-flies** [*count*] *US, informal* : a person who spends a lot of time drinking in bars

¹bar•gain /ˈbɑɚgən/ *noun, pl* **-gains** [*count*]

1 : an agreement in which people or groups say they will do or give something in exchange for something else ▪ I think everyone involved was satisfied with the *bargain* we made. ▪ They've agreed to turn the land over to the state, and the state, as its part of the *bargain*, has agreed to keep it undeveloped. ▪ The union is trying to ***strike a bargain*** [=reach an agreement, make a deal] with the company. ▪ You're allowed to go to the football game tonight, but I expect you to ***keep your side of the bargain*** [=do what you agreed to do] and clean your room. — see also PLEA BARGAIN

2 : something that is bought or sold for a price which is lower than the actual value : something bought or sold at a good price ▪ For that price, the suit is a (real) *bargain*. ▪ I got a *bargain* on the plane tickets. = The plane tickets were a *bargain*. ▪ She likes to hunt for *bargains* when she shops. — often used before another noun ▪ *bargain* airplane tickets ▪ The store has many items on sale at *bargain* prices.

drive a hard bargain ✧ If you *drive a hard bargain*, you do not agree easily to what other people want and are very determined to get what you want when you are discussing what will be done, especially in a business deal. ▪ You *drive a hard bargain*, but I'll accept your terms.

in the bargain *or* ***into the bargain*** : in addition to what has been said : BESIDES ▪ Locally grown food is fresher, and cheaper *in/into the bargain*. [=locally grown food is fresher and also cheaper]

²bargain *verb* **-gains**; **-gained**; **-gain•ing** [*no obj*] : to discuss an agreement or price in order to make it more appealing ▪ The price listed is quite high, but the seller might be willing to *bargain*. ▪ He was *bargaining* [=*haggling*] with the taxi driver over/about the fare. ▪ Teachers are *bargaining* [=*negotiating*] for higher salaries.

bargain away [*phrasal verb*] ***bargain (something) away*** *or* ***bargain away (something)*** : to lose or give up (something) as part of an agreement ▪ The employees on strike are concerned that the union will *bargain away* wage increases for other less desirable benefits.

bargain for/on [*phrasal verb*] ***bargain for/on (something)*** : to expect or plan on (something) ▪ The Internet service is better than what we *bargained for*. [=better than we expected it to be] ▪ No one *bargained for* the change in weather. = No one *bargained on* the weather changing. ▪ They *bargained on* getting married after college. ▪ He hadn't *bargained on* how his new position in the company would change the way people treated him. [=he was surprised by how his new position changed the way people treated him] ▪ The job ended up being ***more than I had bargained for***. [=more difficult than I had expected] ▪ I got *more than I bargained for* when I signed up as a volunteer. [=being a volunteer was harder than I expected]

– **bar•gain•er** *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] ▪ He's a hard *bargainer*.

– **bargaining** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ After hours of hard *bargaining*, they came to an agreement. — often used before another noun ▪ The larger corporation has more *bargaining* power. ▪ They are in a good *bargaining* position. — see also COLLECTIVE BARGAINING, PLEA BARGAINING

bargain basement *noun, pl* ~ **-ments** [*count*] : a section of a large store where products are sold at lower prices

bar•gain–base•ment /ˈbɑɚgənˈbeɪsmənt/ *adj, always used before a noun*

1 *of a price* : very low ▪ I paid a *bargain-basement* price.

2 : having a low price or cost and often having poor quality ▪ worthless *bargain-basement* products

bargaining chip *noun, pl* ~ **chips** [*count*] : something that can be used to gain an advantage when you are trying to make a deal or an agreement ▪ The workers used the threat of a strike as a *bargaining chip* in their negotiations for a new contract. — called also (*Brit*) *bargaining counter*

¹barge /ˈbɑɚʤ/ *noun, pl* **barg•es** [*count*] : a large boat that has a flat bottom and that is used to carry goods in harbors and on rivers and canals

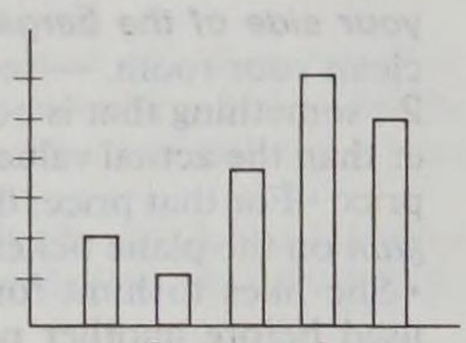
²barge *verb, always followed by an adverb or preposition* **barg•es**; **barged**; **barg•ing** [*no obj*] : to move or push in a fast, awkward, and often rude way ▪ He came rushing down the stairs, *barging* into the crowd of people at the bottom. ▪ She *barged* through the door without even knocking. ▪ What makes him think he can *barge* in here [=enter suddenly and rudely] like that?

barge in on [*phrasal verb*] ***barge in on (something or someone)*** : to suddenly and rudely interrupt or disturb (something or someone) ▪ I was getting angry because she kept *barging in on* our conversation.

barge·pole /ˈbɑəʤˌpoʊl/ *noun, pl* **-poles** [*count*] : a long pole that is used to guide or steer a barge

not touch (someone or something) with a bargepole see [1]TOUCH

bar graph *noun, pl* ~ **graphs** [*count*] : a graph or chart that uses narrow columns of different heights to show and compare different amounts — called also *bar chart*



bar graph

bar·hop /ˈbɑəˌhɑp/ *verb* **-hops**; **-hopped**; **-hop·ping** [*no obj*] *US, informal* : to go to and drink at several bars in one evening ▪ They went *barhopping* downtown on Friday night.

ba·ris·ta /bəˈriːstə/ *noun, pl* **-tas** [*count*] : someone who makes and serves coffee and coffee drinks (such as cappuccino) to customers

[1]**bar·i·tone** /ˈberəˌtoʊn/ *noun, pl* **-tones** [*count*] *music* : a man's singing voice that is higher than the voice of the bass and lower than the voice of the tenor; *also* : a singer who has such a voice ▪ He sang in his school choir as a *baritone*.

[2]**baritone** *adj, always used before a noun* : having a range that is higher than a bass and lower than a tenor ▪ a *baritone* voice ▪ a *baritone* saxophone

bar·i·um /ˈberijəm/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a chemical element that is a soft silver-white metal

[1]**bark** /ˈbɑək/ *verb* **barks**; **barked**; **barking**

1 [*no obj*] *of a dog* : to make a short loud sound ▪ The dog only *barks* when someone approaches the house.

2 : to shout or say (something) in a loud and angry way [+ *obj*] The captain *barked* orders/commands to the crew. ▪ "Come over at once!" he *barked* (at/to her). — often + *out* ▪ The captain *barked out* an order to the crew. [*no obj*] He was *barking* into the phone, giving orders to one of his employees. ▪ The captain *barked* at the crew.

barking up the wrong tree *informal* : trying to do something in a way that will not be successful ▪ If you are looking for money, you're *barking up the wrong tree*. [=you are asking the wrong person] ▪ She claims that researchers are *barking up the wrong tree* by focusing on conventional forms of treatment for the disease.

[2]**bark** *noun, pl* **barks** [*count*] : the short, loud sound made by a dog ▪ The dog gave a loud *bark*.; *also* : a similar sound ▪ The captain gave his orders with a sharp *bark*. ▪ The *bark* of the baby's cough woke the other children. ✧ If ***your bark is worse than your bite***, you appear to be more angry or dangerous than you really are. ▪ Don't get upset if the boss yells at you. *His bark is worse than his bite.* — compare [3]BARK, [4]BARK

[3]**bark** *noun, pl* **barks** : the outer covering of a tree [*noncount*] a piece of birch *bark* [*count*] She compared the *barks* of various trees. — compare [2]BARK, [4]BARK

[4]**bark** *or* **barque** /ˈbɑək/ *noun, pl* **barks** *or* **barques** [*count*] : a small sailing ship — compare [2]BARK, [3]BARK

bar·keep /ˈbɑəˌkiːp/ *also* **bar·keep·er** /ˈbɑəˌkiːpə/ *noun, pl* **-keeps** *also* **-keep·ers** [*count*] *US* : BARTENDER

bark·er /ˈbɑəkə/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] *old-fashioned* : a person who stands at the entrance of a place where there is entertainment and tries to attract customers by shouting to them ▪ a carnival *barker*

barking *adj, Brit, informal* : BARKING MAD

barking mad *adj, Brit, informal* : completely crazy ▪ He was always rather strange, but he seems *barking mad* now.

bar·ley /ˈbɑəli/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a kind of grain used for food and to make beer and whiskey; *also* : the plant on which this grain grows

barley sugar *noun, pl* ~ **-gars** [*count, noncount*] *Brit* : a clear hard candy made from boiled sugar

barley wine *noun* [*noncount*] : a kind of strong ale

bar·maid /ˈbɑəˌmeɪd/ *noun, pl* **-maids** [*count*] : a woman who serves drinks at a bar

bar·man /ˈbɑəmən/ *noun, pl* **-men** /-mən/ [*count*] *chiefly Brit* : BARTENDER

bar mitz·vah /bɑəˈmɪtsvə/ *noun, pl* ~ **-vahs** [*count*] : a ceremony and celebration for a Jewish boy on his 13th birthday when he takes on the religious duties and responsibilities of an adult; *also* : a boy for whom a bar mitzvah is held — compare BAT MITZVAH

barmy /ˈbɑəmi/ *adj* **barm·i·er**; **-est** [*also more* ~; *most* ~] *chiefly Brit, informal* : crazy or foolish ▪ a *barmy* [=(*chiefly US*) *balmy*] idea ▪ She's a little *barmy*. [=*loony*]
– **bar·mi·ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

barn /ˈbɑən/ *noun, pl* **barns** [*count*]

1 : a building on a farm that is used for storing grain and hay and for housing farm animals or equipment

2 *informal* : a large building that is usually bare and plain ▪ They live in a big *barn* of a house.

bar·na·cle /ˈbɑənɪkəl/ *noun, pl* **-na·cles** [*count*] : a kind of small shellfish that attaches itself to rocks and the bottoms of boats underwater
– **bar·na·cled** /ˈbɑənɪkəld/ *adj* ▪ *barnacled* rocks

barn burner *noun, pl* ~ **-ers** [*count*] *US, informal* : a very exciting game, event, etc. ▪ The game should be a real *barn burner*.

barn dance *noun, pl* ~ **dances** [*count*] : an informal social event at which people do traditional dances (such as square dances)

barn owl *noun, pl* ~ **owls** [*count*] : a common kind of owl that nests in barns and other buildings

barn·storm /ˈbɑəˌstoəm/ *verb* **-storms**; **-stormed**; **-storm·ing** *chiefly US* : to travel to different places to give speeches, perform shows, etc. [*no obj*] He spent the months leading up to the election *barnstorming* around/across the country. ▪ The national soccer team *barnstormed* through the country. [+ *obj*] They *barnstormed* the country.

barnstorming *adj, always used before a noun*

1 *chiefly US* : traveling to different places to give speeches, perform shows, etc. ▪ *barnstorming* politicians

2 *Brit* : very exciting and thrilling ▪ a *barnstorming* performance

[1]**barn·yard** /ˈbɑənˌjɑəd/ *noun, pl* **-yards** [*count*] : an area of ground near a barn that usually has a fence around it

[2]**barnyard** *adj, always used before a noun*

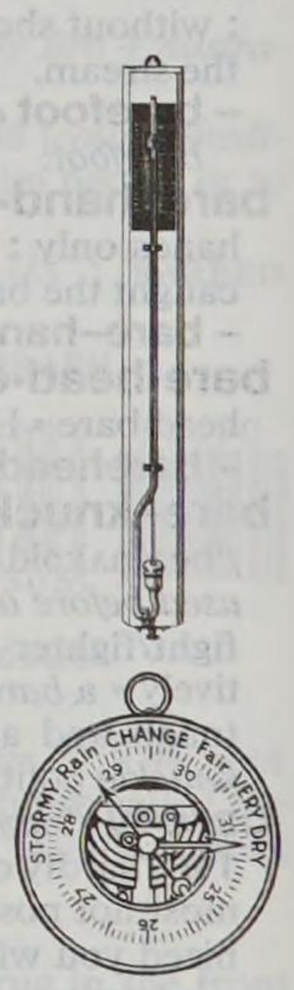
1 : of or relating to a farm ▪ goats, pigs, and other *barnyard* animals

2 *US, informal* : not polite : somewhat crude or rude ▪ *barnyard* [=*earthy*] jokes/humor

ba·rom·e·ter /bəˈrɑːmətə/ *noun, pl* **-ters** [*count*]

1 : an instrument that is used to measure air pressure and predict changes in the weather

2 : something that is used to indicate or predict something ▪ The test is used as a *barometer* [=*standard*] to measure a student's reading level. ▪ Economists see housing prices as a *barometer* for inflation. [=economists use housing prices to predict inflation] — often + *of* ▪ A player's rookie season is not always a good/accurate *barometer of* his success in the league. ▪ Wealth is not a *barometer of* happiness.
– **baro·met·ric** /ˌberəˈmɛtrɪk/ *adj, always used before a noun* ▪ *barometric* pressure



barometers

bar·on /ˈberən/ *noun, pl* **-ons** [*count*]

1 a : a man who is a member of a low rank of British nobility **b** : a man who is a member of various ranks of nobility in other countries

2 : a man who has a lot of power or influence in a particular industry ▪ a cattle/oil *baron* — see also ROBBER BARON

bar·on·ess /ˈberənəs/ *noun, pl* **-ess·es** [*count*]

1 a : a woman who is a member of a low rank of British nobility **b** : a woman who is a member of various ranks of nobility in other countries

2 : the wife or widow of a baron

bar·on·et /ˈberənət/ *noun, pl* **-ets** [*count*] : a man who is a member of the British nobility with a rank below a baron
– **bar·on·et·cy** /ˈberənətsi/ *noun, pl* **-cies** [*count*] ▪ He inherited the *baronetcy* [=the rank of a baronet] from his father.

ba·ro·ni·al /bəˈroʊnijəl/ *adj* : of or relating to a baron ▪ *baronial* privileges : suitable for a baron ▪ *baronial* [=*rich*] splendor ▪ a *baronial* estate [=a very large and impressive estate]

bar·ony /ˈberəni/ *noun, pl* **-on·ies** [*count*] : the rank of a baron ▪ He inherited the *barony* from his father.

ba•roque /bə'rouk/ *adj*
1 : of or relating to a dramatic style of art and music that was common in the 17th and early 18th centuries and that featured many decorative parts and details ▪ *baroque* paintings/music ▪ a *baroque* cathedral ▪ the *baroque* period
2 [*more* ~; *most* ~] : having many details or too many details ▪ a somewhat *baroque* writing style ▪ a book filled with *baroque* descriptions
– **baroque** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ The museum is exhibiting paintings from ***the baroque***. [=the baroque period]

barque *variant spelling of* [4]BARK

bar•rack /'berək/ *verb* **-racks**; **-racked**; **-rack•ing**
1 *Brit* : to bother or interrupt (someone, such as a performer or speaker) by shouting comments or criticism [+ *obj*] The crowd *barracked* [=*heckled*] the visiting team. [*no obj*] The crowd *barracked* in protest as she gave her speech.
2 [*no obj*] *chiefly Australia* : to shout in support of a person or group — often + *for* ▪ *barracking* [=*rooting, cheering*] *for* the home team
– **barracking** *noun* [*noncount*] She got a lot of *barracking* during her speech. [*singular*] She got quite a *barracking* during her speech.

bar•racks /'berəks/ *noun, pl* **-racks** [*count*] : a building or group of buildings in which soldiers live ▪ The soldier was moved to a different *barracks*. ▪ He was confined to *barracks* for insubordination.

bar•ra•cu•da /ˌberə'ku:də/ *noun, pl* **-da** *or* **-das** [*count*]
1 : a kind of fierce tropical fish that has strong jaws and sharp teeth ▪ We fished for *barracuda*. — see color picture on page C8
2 *US, informal* + *disapproving* : someone who uses aggressive, harsh, and sometimes improper ways to achieve something ▪ The company's lawyers are a bunch of *barracudas*.

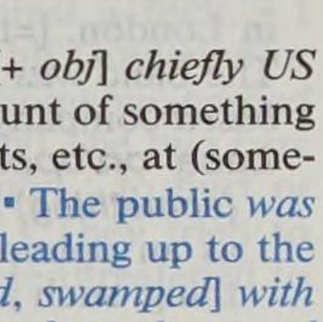
[1]**bar•rage** /bə'rɑ:ʒ, *Brit* 'bæˌrɑ:ʒ/ *noun, pl* **-rag•es**
1 [*count*] : a heavy and continuous firing of weapons during a battle ▪ The enemy laid down a *barrage* of machine-gun fire as our platoon approached the bridge. ▪ artillery *barrages*
2 [*singular*] : a great amount of something that comes quickly and continuously — + *of* ▪ He unleashed a *barrage of* insults. ▪ The reports overwhelmed her with a *barrage of* questions. ▪ a *barrage* [=*flood*] of phone calls
– compare [3]BARRAGE

[2]**barrage** *verb* **-rages**; **-raged**; **-rag•ing** [+ *obj*] *chiefly US* : to cause (someone) to receive a great amount of something : to direct a barrage of questions, comments, etc., at (someone) — usually used as *(be) barraged with* ▪ The public *was barraged with* campaign ads in the months leading up to the election. ▪ They *were barraged* [=*inundated, swamped*] *with* inquiries about the job. ▪ The office *has been barraged* [=*flooded, inundated*] *with* phone calls.

[3]**bar•rage** /'bɑrɪʤ/ *noun, pl* **-rag•es** [*count*] : a barrier (such as a cement wall) that is built across a river or stream especially to increase the depth of water or change its direction — compare [1]BARRAGE

barred /'bɑəd/ *adj*
1 : covered by a bar or a set of bars ▪ He looked out the *barred* windows of the jail.
2 : having bands or stripes of different color ▪ a bird with a *barred* tail

[1]**bar•rel** /'berəl/ *noun, pl* **-rels** [*count*]
1 a : a round usually wooden container with curved sides and flat ends ▪ Oak *barrels* are used for aging the wine. ▪ an empty *barrel* **b** : the amount of something in a barrel ▪ The price of oil is over 30 dollars a *barrel*. ▪ They drank a whole *barrel* of beer. — see also PORK BARREL
2 : the part of a gun that the bullets go through when the gun is fired ▪ the *barrel* of a gun ▪ a rifle *barrel* — see picture at GUN; see also *lock, stock, and barrel* at [1]LOCK


barrel

a barrel of laughs *informal* : someone or something that is very funny — often used in negative statements or in an ironic way to describe someone or something that is not really funny ▪ Several people have lost their jobs recently, so the office isn't exactly a *barrel of laughs* these days. ▪ "Your boss is quite a kidder." "Oh yeah, he's a real *barrel of laughs*."
more fun than a barrel (full) of monkeys *US, informal* + *somewhat old-fashioned* : very funny and enjoyable ▪ The ads say the movie will be *more fun than a barrel of monkeys*.
over a barrel : in a bad situation : in a situation where you are forced to do something you do not want to do ▪ My landlord really has me *over a barrel*. I have to either pay double my rent or move somewhere else.
the bottom of the barrel see [1]BOTTOM
– **bar•reled** (*US*) *or Brit* **bar•relled** /'berəld/ *adj* — used in combination ▪ a short-*barreled* shotgun [=a shotgun having a short barrel] — see also DOUBLE-BARRELED

[2]**barrel** *verb, always followed by an adverb or preposition* **-rels**; **-reled** *also* **-relled**; **-rel•ing** *also* **-rel•ling** [*no obj*] *US, informal* : to move very fast and often in an uncontrolled or dangerous way ▪ The truck went *barreling* down Main Street. ▪ She came running out of her office and went *barreling* past us down the hall.

bar•rel–chest•ed /'berəlˌʧestəd/ *adj, of a man* : having a large, round chest that usually suggests great strength ▪ a big, *barrel-chested* football player

barrel organ *noun, pl* ~ **-gans** [*count*] : a large musical instrument that is played by turning a handle and that was once commonly played by performers (called organ-grinders) on city streets — called also *hurdy-gurdy*

bar•ren /'berən/ *adj*
1 a : having very few plants : not suitable for plants ▪ a *barren* [=*desolate*] landscape ▪ a *barren* desert ▪ Few creatures can thrive on these *barren* mountaintops. **b** : not producing fruit or not able to produce fruit ▪ a *barren* tree ▪ a *barren* orchard
2 *old-fashioned, of a woman or female animal* : not able to produce children or offspring : INFERTILE ▪ a *barren* woman
3 [*more* ~; *most* ~] : not exciting or interesting ▪ The book was good, but I found the *barren* lives of the characters depressing. ▪ a very *barren* routine
4 : not producing good or useful things, ideas, etc. ▪ an artist who is going through a *barren* period ▪ a *barren* mind
barren of *formal* : not having (something) : WITHOUT ▪ a hillside *barren of* trees
– **bar•ren•ness** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the *barrenness* of the land/soil

bar•rette /bɑ'rɛt/ *noun, pl* **-rettes** [*count*] *US* : a decorative clip or bar that is used to hold a girl's or woman's hair in place — called also (*Brit*) *hair slide*; see picture at GROOMING

[1]**bar•ri•cade** /'berəˌkeɪd/ *noun, pl* **-cades** [*count*] : a temporary wall, fence, or similar structure that is built to prevent people from entering a place or area ▪ The enemy broke through the *barricade*. ▪ Police erected *barricades* to keep the crowds from approaching the crime scene.

[2]**barricade** *verb* **-cades**; **-cad•ed**; **-cad•ing** [+ *obj*] : to block (something) so that people or things cannot enter or leave ▪ The police *barricaded* the crime scene. ▪ They *barricaded* the door. ▪ Ships *barricaded* the coastline.
barricade yourself ✧ If you *barricade yourself* in/inside something, you prevent other people from entering the place where you are by locking the door or by putting up a barricade. ▪ Students *barricaded themselves* in the cafeteria to protest university policies.

bar•ri•er /'berijɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]
1 : something (such as a fence or natural obstacle) that prevents or blocks movement from one place to another ▪ Concrete *barriers* surround the race track to protect spectators. ▪ The tree's roots serve/act as a *barrier* against soil erosion. ▪ The mountain range forms a natural *barrier* between the two countries. ▪ *barrier* beaches — see also BARRIER ISLAND, BARRIER REEF, CRASH BARRIER
2 a : a law, rule, problem, etc., that makes something difficult or impossible ▪ Both leaders are in favor of removing trade *barriers*. ▪ Cultural/social *barriers* have made it hard for women to enter many professions. ▪ He argues that regulations should not be viewed as *barriers* to progress. **b** : something that makes it difficult for people to understand each other — often + *between* ▪ The lecture was about finding ways to break through *barriers between* the social classes. ▪ Age can be a big *barrier between* parents and children. ▪ A ***language barrier*** existed *between* the two countries. [=people in the two countries did not understand each other because they spoke different languages]
3 : a level, amount, or number that is difficult to get past ▪ His fastball broke the 100-mph *barrier*. [=he threw a baseball over 100 mph] ▪ a price *barrier* [=a price that is regarded as a limit] — see also SOUND BARRIER

barrier island *noun, pl* ~ **islands** [*count*] : a long, sandy island that is near a shore

barrier reef *noun, pl* ~ **reefs** [*count*] : a long coral reef that is near a shore

B

bar•ring /ˈbɑrɪŋ/ *prep*
1 — used to say that something will happen unless something else happens ▪ They'll be at sea for six months, *barring* medical emergencies. [=they'll be at sea for six months if there are no medical emergencies] ▪ She's going to lose the election *barring* a miracle. [=unless a miracle occurs]
2 : other than (someone or something) : EXCEPT ▪ No one, *barring* the magician himself, knows how the trick is done.

bar•rio /ˈbɑrijoʊ/ *noun, pl* **-rios** [*count*] : a neighborhood in a city or town in the U.S. in which many people who speak Spanish live ✧ *Barrio* is especially used for neighborhoods in the southwestern parts of the U.S.

bar•ris•ter /ˈberəstɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ters** [*count*] : a lawyer in Britain who has the right to argue in higher courts of law — compare SOLICITOR

bar•room /ˈbɑɚˌruːm/ *noun, pl* **-rooms** [*count*] : a place where alcoholic drinks are served : BAR — often used before another noun ▪ a *barroom* brawl

bar•row /ˈberoʊ/ *noun, pl* **-rows** [*count*]
1 : WHEELBARROW
2 *chiefly Brit* : a cart with two wheels that is pushed or pulled and that is used for selling fruits, vegetables, etc., on the street

bar•tend•er /ˈbɑɚˌtɛndɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] *US* : a person who serves drinks at a bar or restaurant
– **bar•tend** /ˈbɑɚˌtɛnd/ *verb* **-tends**; **-tend•ed**; **-tend•ing** [*no obj*] ▪ He makes extra money by *bartending* on weekends.

[1]bar•ter /ˈbɑɚtɚ/ *verb* **-ters**; **-tered**; **-ter•ing** : to exchange things (such as products or services) for other things instead of for money [*no obj*] — often + *for* or *with* ▪ The farmers *bartered for* supplies with their crops. ▪ The town's people often *barter* [=*trade*] *with* the owner of the store. [+ *obj*] — often + *for* ▪ They *barter* [=*trade*] eggs *for* cheese with the neighboring farm.

[2]barter *noun* [*noncount*]
1 : a system in which goods or services are exchanged for other goods or services instead of for money ▪ The tribes use a system of *barter*. ▪ a *barter* system
2 : goods or services that are exchanged for other goods or services ▪ The explorers used blankets and other supplies for *barter* to get food from the native people.

ba•salt /bəˈsɑːlt/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a type of dark gray to black rock
– **ba•sal•tic** /bəˈsɑːltɪk/ *adj* ▪ *basaltic* rock

[1]base /ˈbeɪs/ *noun, pl* **bas•es**
1 [*count*] : the bottom or lowest part of something : the part on which something rests or is supported — usually singular ▪ The lamp has a heavy *base*. ▪ He planted flowers around the stone's *base*. ▪ Make sure the *base of* the stove rests evenly on the floor. ▪ The climbers established a camp at the *base* of the mountain. = The climbers established a ***base camp***. — often used figuratively ▪ Although I disagreed with the book's theoretical *base* [=*basis, foundation*], I couldn't really find fault with its logic. ▪ The tour was informative, thanks to the guide's ***broad base of knowledge***.
2 [*count*] : something (such as a group of people or things) that provides support for a place, business, etc. — usually singular ▪ At one time paper mills were the industrial *base* for the region. ▪ The economic *base* of the village is tourism. [=tourism is the most important part of the village's economy] ▪ The company has a solid ***customer base***. [=set of customers it can depend on] ▪ The sport's ***fan base*** [=group of fans] is growing. — see also POWER BASE, TAX BASE
3 [*count*] : a main ingredient to which other things are added to make something — usually singular ▪ The paint has a water *base*, not an oil *base*. ▪ She uses chicken broth as the *base* of the soup.
4 a [*count*] : the main place in which a person works or lives or a business operates ▪ He uses his home as the *base* for his accounting business. ▪ The company's *base* is in London. = The company's ***base of operations*** is (in) London. [=the company's main offices are in London] ▪ The band recently returned to its ***home base*** of Chicago after three months on tour. **b** : a place where a military force keeps supplies and where people in the military live and work [*count*] naval/military *bases* ▪ the commander of the *base* = the *base* commander [*noncount*] The troops were ordered back to *base*. — see also AIR BASE
5 *baseball* : any one of the four places a runner must touch in order to score [*count*] He threw the ball to the wrong *base*. [*noncount*] There's a runner ***on base***. [=there's a runner on first, second, or third base] ▪ The batter ***reached base*** on an error by the shortstop. — compare HOME PLATE; see also FIRST BASE, SECOND BASE, THIRD BASE
6 [*count*] *chemistry* : a chemical that reacts with an acid to form a salt ✧ A base has a pH higher than 7. — compare [1]ACID 1, PH
7 [*count*] *mathematics* : a number on which a system for counting and calculating is established — usually singular ▪ Computers use a binary, or *base* 2, system, rather than the decimal, or *base* 10, system we usually use.
cover all the bases *also* ***cover every base*** : to do or include everything that needs to be done or included ▪ The book is sometimes confusing because the writer tries too hard to *cover all the bases*. ▪ They reviewed the contract to make sure that it *covered all the bases*.
off base *US, informal* **1** : not correct : wrong or mistaken ▪ Her study proves that the theory is *off base*. ▪ It turns out that the estimates were ***way off base***. [=very wrong] **2** : in an unprepared state ▪ He was caught *off base* [=*off guard*] by the accusations. [=he was not prepared for the accusations]
touch all the bases *or* ***touch every base*** *chiefly US* : to cover all the bases; *especially* : to mention every subject or point that needs to be considered ▪ She made sure that she *touched all the bases* in her report. ▪ His opening remarks at the meeting *touched all the bases*.
touch base *informal* : to meet and talk as a way of learning about recent news ▪ Let's get together for lunch next week to *touch base*. — usually + *with* ▪ He attended the conference for a chance to *touch base with* other people in the computer industry.

[2]base *verb* **bases**; **based**; **bas•ing** [+ *obj*] : to have a particular place as the main place where a person works or lives or where a business operates ▪ They are going to *base* their new company in Seattle. ▪ The company has ***based itself*** in London. ▪ Our tour group *based itself* in a hotel in the heart of the city. — often used as *(be) based* ▪ The company *is based* in London. [=the company's main offices are in London] ▪ The band *was based* in Chicago until recently. ▪ a London-*based* company
base on/upon [*phrasal verb*] ***base (something) on/upon (something)*** : to form, make, or develop (something, such as an opinion, decision, or calculation) by using (something, such as information) as a basis, starting point, etc. ▪ You've *based* your opinion *on* faulty information. = Your opinion is *based on* faulty information. [=the information that you used to form your opinion is wrong] ▪ The interest rate is *based on* credit history. [=credit history is used to determine the interest rate] ▪ The story is *based on* real-life events. [=the story was developed from real-life events] ▪ The island's economy is *based on* tourism.

[3]base *adj*
1 ***bas•er; -est*** [*also more* ~; *most* ~] *formal + literary* : not honest or good ▪ *base* motives ▪ a *base* criminal
2 *technical, of a metal* : having low quality and value ▪ Iron is a *base* metal.
– **base•ly** *adv* ▪ He acted *basely*. – **base•ness** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the *baseness* of his actions

base•ball /ˈbeɪsˌbɑːl/ *noun, pl* **-balls**
1 [*noncount*] : a game played on a large field by two teams of nine players who try to score runs by hitting a small ball with a bat and then running to each of the four bases without being put out ▪ He likes playing *baseball*. ▪ We watched *baseball* on TV last night. — often used before another noun ▪ a *baseball* player/team/game ▪ a *baseball* bat/card — see pictures at BAT, GLOVE
2 [*count*] : the ball used in baseball — see picture at BALL

baseball cap *noun, pl* ~ **caps** [*count*] : a rounded cap that fits close to the head and that has a long visor ✧ Baseball caps were originally worn only by baseball players as part of their uniform but are now worn by many people. — see picture at HAT

base•board /ˈbeɪsˌboɚd/ *noun, pl* **-boards** [*count*] *US* : a narrow board along the bottom of a wall that covers the area where the wall meets the floor — called also (*Brit*) *skirting board*

based *adj* — used to describe the base or basis of something

▪ a soundly *based* argument [=an argument that has a sound basis] — often used in combination ▪ oil-*based* paints

base hit *noun, pl* ~ **hits** [*count*] *baseball* : a hit that allows a batter to reach a base safely : a single, double, triple, or home run ▪ The pitcher gave up three *base hits* [=*hits*] in two innings.

base•less /ˈbeɪsləs/ *adj* : not based on facts : without a good reason ▪ a *baseless* [=*unfounded*] accusation ▪ The charges against him were found to be *baseless*.

base•line /ˈbeɪsˌlaɪn/ *noun, pl* **-lines** [*count*]

1 *technical* : information that is used as a starting point by which to compare other information ▪ The experiment is meant only to provide a *baseline* for other studies. — often used before another noun ▪ *baseline* data

2 : a line at either end of the playing area in games like basketball and tennis

3 *baseball* **a** : either one of the lines that lead from home plate to first base and third base **b** : BASE PATH

baseman see FIRST BASEMAN, SECOND BASEMAN, THIRD BASEMAN

base•ment /ˈbeɪsmənt/ *noun, pl* **-ments** [*count*] : the part of a building that is entirely or partly below the ground — see also BARGAIN BASEMENT

base on balls *noun, pl* **bases on balls** [*count*] *baseball* : a movement to first base that is awarded to a batter who does not swing at four pitches that are balls — called also *walk*

base path *noun, pl* ~ **paths** [*count*] : the area between two bases on a baseball field where a player must remain while running from one base to the other

base pay *noun, pl* ~ **pays** [*count, noncount*] : the amount of money paid to someone for work at a job that does not include any additional payments for bonuses, overtime, etc.

base runner *noun, pl* ~ **-ners** [*count*] *baseball* : a player who is on base or is trying to reach a base

– **base•run•ning** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ He is good at *baserunning*.

bases *plural of* ¹BASE *or of* BASIS

¹bash /ˈbæʃ/ *verb* **bash•es; bashed; bash•ing**

1 a [+ *obj*] : to cause or allow (something, such as part of your body) to hit something very hard or forcefully ▪ She fell down and *bashed* [=*banged*] her knee against a rock. ▪ I *bashed* my arm against the door. **b** : to hit (someone or something) very hard or forcefully [+ *obj*] Someone *bashed* him over/on the head with a chair. [*no obj*] The two cars *bashed* [=*crashed*] into each other. **c** [+ *obj*] : to hurt or damage (something) by hitting or beating ▪ They tried to *bash* the door open/down. — often + *in* ▪ He threatened to *bash* [=*beat, smash*] my head *in*.

2 [+ *obj*] : to criticize or attack (a person or group) ▪ newspapers that use their editorial pages to *bash* [=harshly criticize] the president ▪ groups accused of gay *bashing* [=criticizing or attacking gay people] ▪ celebrity *bashing*

bash away [*phrasal verb*] *Brit, informal* : to work hard at something ▪ The children are *bashing away* [=(*US*) *banging away*] at their homework.

bash on [*phrasal verb*] *Brit, informal* : to continue to work hard at something ▪ You're not finished yet? Well, *bash on*. [=*press on*]

bash out [*phrasal verb*] ***bash out (something) or bash (something) out*** *Brit, informal* : to produce (something) quickly ▪ He *bashed out* [=*banged out*] an angry letter to the editor.

bash up [*phrasal verb*] ***bash up (someone) or bash (someone) up*** *chiefly Brit, informal* : to attack (someone) ▪ A group of older girls *bashed up* [=*beat up*] the sisters.

– **basher** *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] ▪ celebrity *bashers* [=people who criticize celebrities]

²bash *noun, pl* **bashes** [*count*]

1 : a big or exciting party ▪ We threw her a birthday *bash*.

2 : a hard and powerful hit or blow ▪ She gave me a *bash* on the head.

have a bash at *Brit, informal* : to try or attempt (something) ▪ I've never done it before, but I'll *have a bash at* it.

bash•ful /ˈbæʃfəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : nervous or uncomfortable in social situations : afraid to talk to people because of a lack of confidence ▪ She was very *bashful* [=*shy*] as a child. ▪ *bashful* boys asking girls to dance ▪ He looked at her with a *bashful* smile. [=a smile that showed he was feeling bashful] ▪ Take another cookie if you like. Don't be *bashful*. [=*shy*]

– **bash•ful•ly** *adv* ▪ He smiled *bashfully*. – **bash•ful•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

¹ba•sic /ˈbeɪsɪk/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

1 : forming or relating to the most important part of something ▪ In this class, you will learn the *basic* principles of chemistry. ▪ At its most *basic* level, the book is about a father's relationship with his children. ▪ The *basic* difference between the two companies is their size. ▪ The organization fights for *basic* human rights [=the rights that all people should have] throughout the world. ▪ These ingredients are a *basic* part of Thai cooking. = These ingredients are ***basic to*** Thai cooking. ▪ rights that are *basic to* all human beings

2 : forming or relating to the first or easiest part of something ▪ We're learning *basic* [=*beginning*] English. ▪ *basic* reading, writing, and mathematics ▪ She lacks even the most *basic* skills necessary for the job.

3 : not including anything extra ▪ That's just the *basic* salary without overtime or tips. ▪ The motel is comfortable but pretty *basic*: you get the necessities all right, but no luxuries.

²basic *noun, pl* **-sics**

1 *basics* [*plural*] : the simplest and most important parts of something (such as a subject of study) ▪ He's teaching me the *basics* of Japanese cooking. ▪ the *basics* of computers = computer *basics*

2 [*noncount*] *chiefly US* : BASIC TRAINING ▪ He starts *basic* in two months.

get/go back to (the) basics : to return to a simpler way of doing something or thinking about something ▪ The restaurant is *getting back to basics* in terms of food, using fresh ingredients to make simple, good food.

BA•SIC /ˈbeɪsɪk/ *noun* [*noncount*] *computers* : a simple language used for programming computers ▪ The program is written in *BASIC*.

ba•si•cal•ly /ˈbeɪsɪkli/ *adv*

1 : in a general or basic way — used to say that something is true or correct as a general statement even if it is not entirely true or correct ▪ There are a few boring parts, but *basically* [=*generally, for the most part*], it's a very good book. ▪ She's *basically* a good kid. ▪ You're *basically* [=*fundamentally*] correct, but there's something you don't know. ▪ There are *basically* two types of people: those who like chocolate and those who don't. ▪ a *basically* healthy person ▪ Children *basically* learn to speak by listening to their parents. ▪ All people are *basically* the same. = *Basically*, all people are the same.

2 — used to show that a statement is expressing the most important reason for something ▪ "Why don't you like him?" "*Basically*, I think he's crazy." ▪ We'd like to buy a new car, but, *basically*, we just don't have enough money.

3 [*more* ~; *most* ~] : in a simple way ▪ people who are trying to live more *basically* [=*simply*]

basic training *noun* [*noncount*] : the first few weeks of training for someone who has recently joined the military ▪ Our son is in *basic training*.

ba•sil /ˈbæzəl, ˈbeɪzəl/ *noun* [*noncount*] : an herb that has a sweet smell and that is used in cooking — see color picture on page C6

ba•sil•i•ca /bəˈsɪlɪkə/ *noun, pl* **-cas** [*count*] : a large church that has a long central part that ends in a curved wall

bas•i•lisk /ˈbæsəˌlɪsk/ *noun, pl* **-lisks** [*count*] *in stories and legends* : a reptile that can kill people by breathing on them or looking at them

ba•sin /ˈbeɪsn̩/ *noun, pl* **-sins** [*count*]

1 a *chiefly Brit* : a kitchen sink **b** *Brit* : a large bowl that is used for mixing, cooking, or serving food **c** : the amount contained in a basin ▪ a *basin* of cold water

2 : the area of land around a large river and the small rivers that flow into it ▪ the drainage *basin* of a river ▪ the Amazon *Basin*

3 : a large area of the earth's surface that is lower than the area around it ▪ the Great *Basin* of the western U.S.

4 : an area of water where people keep their ships and boats when they are not sailing them ▪ a yacht *basin*

ba•sis /ˈbeɪsəs/ *noun, pl* **ba•ses** /ˈbeɪˌsi:z/

1 : something (such as an idea or set of ideas) from which another thing develops or can develop [*count*] — usually singular ▪ This principle forms the *basis* [=*base, foundation*] of the country's economic policies and will provide a firm *basis* for future development. ▪ The actor's letters form the *basis* of the biography. [=the biography is based on the actor's letters; the most important information in the biography comes from the actor's letters] [*noncount*] These stories have very little *basis* [=*foundation*] in fact/reality. [=these stories are not based on or supported by facts/reality]

2 [*noncount*] : a reason for doing something ▪ The judge

ruled that there is no legal *basis* [=*ground*] for a new trial. ▪ The latest news at least provides some *basis* for hope. [=some reason to hope] ▪ ***On what basis*** were the students chosen/selected? [=how were the students chosen/selected?; what was considered when the students were chosen/selected?] ▪ Students were chosen/selected ***on the basis of*** [=*according to*] their grades and test scores. ▪ Our decisions are made *on the basis of* the available information. [=we base our decisions on the available information] ▪ The company does not hire employees *on the basis of* their race, sex, age, or religion.

3 [*singular*] **a** : a fixed pattern or system for doing something — used with *on* ▪ He visits his grandmother ***on a regular basis***. [=*regularly*] ▪ The company changes its Web site ***on a daily/weekly basis***. [=every day/week] ▪ changes that occur ***on an hourly basis*** ▪ They hired her ***on a trial/temporary basis***. ▪ People are seated ***on a first-come, first-served basis***. [=the people who arrive first are given seats first] **b** — used to describe the way people act with each other ▪ The two golfers still compete ***on a friendly basis***. [=in a friendly way] — see also *on a first-name basis* at FIRST NAME

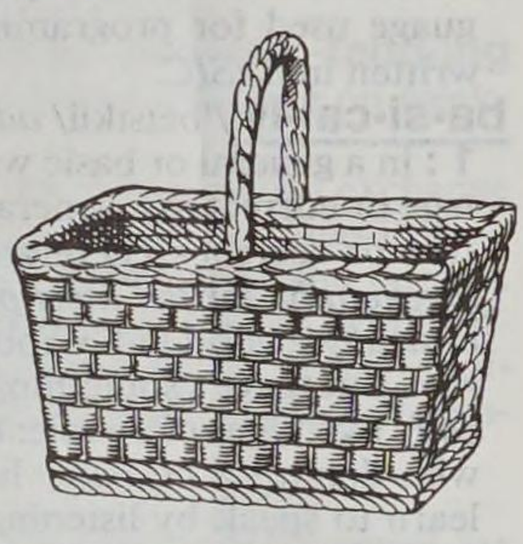
bask /ˈbæsk, *Brit* ˈbɑːsk/ *verb* **basks**; **basked**; **bask•ing** [*no obj*]

1 : to lie or relax happily in a bright and warm place ▪ We sat *basking* in the sun. ▪ Tourists were *basking* on the beaches.

2 : to enjoy the attention and good feelings expressed by others ▪ He stood before the audience, *basking* in their applause. ▪ parents who ***bask in the reflected glory*** of their children [=parents who enjoy the attention people give them because of the success of their children]

bas•ket /ˈbæskɪt, *Brit* ˈbɑːskɪt/ *noun, pl* **-kets** [*count*]

1 a : a container usually made by weaving together long thin pieces of material ▪ wicker/straw/wire *baskets* ▪ a fruit *basket* = a *basket* filled with fruit ▪ a laundry *basket* [=a basket that holds dirty clothes] ▪ They brought their lunch in a picnic *basket*. — see also BREADBASKET, HANDBASKET, WASTEBASKET **b** : the amount contained in a basket ▪ a *basket* [=*basketful*] of eggs



basket

2 *basketball* **a** : a net hanging from a thin metal ring that the ball must go through in order to score points ▪ His shot missed the *basket* completely. **b** : a successful shot ▪ She ***made/scored a basket***. [=she scored points by making a shot that went through the basket]

put all your eggs in one basket see ¹EGG

– basketful *noun, pl* **-fuls** [*count*] ▪ a *basketful* of eggs

bas•ket•ball /ˈbæskɪtˌbɑːl, *Brit* ˈbɑːskɪtˌbɔːl/ *noun, pl* **-balls**

1 [*noncount*] : a game in which two teams of five players bounce a ball and try to score points by throwing the ball through one of the raised nets at each end of a rectangular court ▪ She plays *basketball*. — often used before another noun ▪ a *basketball* game/team/player/coach

2 [*count*] : a large rubber ball that is used in the game of basketball — see picture at BALL

basket case *noun, pl* **~ cases** [*count*] *informal*

1 : a person who is very nervous, tired, etc., and is not able to think or act normally ▪ I was so worried about losing my job that I was a complete *basket case*.

2 : something (such as a company or a government) that is in very bad condition and close to failure ▪ a business that was once very successful but is now a financial *basket case*

bas•ket•ry /ˈbæskɪtri, *Brit* ˈbɑːskətri/ *noun* [*noncount*]

1 : the art or craft of making baskets and other objects by weaving together long thin pieces of material

2 : baskets and other objects made by basketry ▪ a collection of *basketry* — called also *basketwork*

bas•ket•work /ˈbæskɪtˌwɚk, *Brit* ˈbɑːskɪtˌwɚk/ *noun* [*noncount*] : BASKETRY 2

bas•ma•ti rice /ˌbɑːzˈmɑːti-, *Brit* ˌbæzˈmɑːti-/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a kind of long rice that is used especially in Indian and Middle Eastern cooking

bas mitz•vah /bɑsˈmɪtsvə/ *noun, pl* **~ -vahs** [*count*] : BAT MITZVAH

bas–re•lief /ˌbɑːrɪˈliːf/ *noun, pl* **-liefs** : a kind of sculpture in which shapes are carved so that they are only slightly higher than the flat background [*count*] the *bas-reliefs* on the building's façade [*noncount*] a façade decorated with flowers in *bas-relief* — often used before another noun ▪ *bas-relief* carvings/sculptures

¹bass /ˈbeɪs/ *noun, pl* **bass•es** *music*

1 : low and deep sound : the lowest range of sounds used in music [*noncount*] Turn down the treble on your radio and turn up the *bass*. [*singular*] The song has a loud/heavy/booming *bass*. — compare TREBLE

2 [*count*] : the lowest male singing voice ▪ He sings with/in a deep *bass*.; *also* : a singer who has such a voice ▪ He's a *bass*. — compare ALTO, SOPRANO, TENOR

3 [*count*] **a** : a kind of guitar that usually has four strings and that makes low sounds [*count*] an electric/acoustic *bass* ▪ She plays (the) *bass*. ▪ a *bass* player — called also *bass guitar* **b** : DOUBLE BASS

– compare ³BASS

²bass /ˈbeɪs/ *adj, always used before a noun* : having or indicating a low sound or range ▪ his deep *bass* voice ▪ the sound of the *bass* drum ▪ a *bass* clarinet ▪ the *bass* clef

³bass /ˈbæs/ *noun, pl* **bass** : a kind of fish that people catch for food [*count*] She caught three *bass*. [*noncount*] We had *bass* for dinner. — see color picture on page C8 — compare ¹BASS

bas•set hound /ˈbæsət-/ *noun, pl* **~ hounds** [*count*] : a kind of dog that has short legs and long ears and that is used for hunting — called also *basset*

bas•si•net /ˌbæsəˈnɛt/ *noun, pl* **-nets** [*count*] : a small bed for a baby that looks like a basket and that usually has a hood or cover over one end

bass•ist /ˈbeɪsɪst/ *noun, pl* **-sists** [*count*] *music* : a person who plays a double bass or a bass guitar

bas•soon /bəˈsuːn/ *noun, pl* **-soons** [*count*] : a large musical instrument that is shaped like a tube, makes low sounds, and is played by blowing into a small, thin tube in its side — see picture at WOODWIND

– bas•soon•ist /bəˈsuːnɪst/ *noun, pl* **-ists** [*count*]

bas•tard /ˈbæstəd, *Brit* ˈbɑːstəd/ *noun, pl* **-tards** [*count*]

1 *informal* **a** *offensive* : a very bad or unpleasant man : a man who you strongly dislike or hate ▪ You dirty *bastard*! **b** *sometimes offensive* : a man who you think is lucky, unlucky, etc. ▪ Congratulations on getting the job, you lucky *bastard*! ▪ His wife left him, the poor *bastard*. **c** *chiefly Brit, sometimes offensive* : something that is difficult or unpleasant ▪ Life can be a real *bastard* sometimes.

2 *usually offensive* : a person whose parents were not married to each other : an illegitimate child — sometimes used before another noun ▪ the *bastard* son of a wealthy noble ✧ This use of *bastard* was common in the past, but it is now usually avoided.

bas•tard•ize *also Brit* **bas•tard•ise** /ˈbæstəˌdaɪz, *Brit* ˈbɑːstəˌdaɪz/ *verb* **-iz•es**; **-ized**; **-iz•ing** [+ *obj*] *disapproving* : to produce a poor copy or version of (something) ▪ It's a shame to see how Hollywood has *bastardized* the novel. ▪ The restaurant serves a *bastardized* version of the classic French dish.

baste /ˈbeɪst/ *verb* **bastes**; **bast•ed**; **bast•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to pour hot juices, melted fat, etc., over (meat) while it is cooking ▪ *Baste* the turkey every half hour.

2 : to sew together (pieces of cloth) with long, loose stitches ▪ She *basted* the hem of the dress.

bas•tion /ˈbæstʃən, *Brit* ˈbæstiən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** [*count*] : a place or system in which something (such as an old-fashioned idea) continues to survive ▪ The neighborhood is considered by many to be the city's last liberal/conservative *bastion*. [=the only place left in the city where liberal/conservative ideas are still accepted] ▪ a *bastion* of racial inequality [=a system in which people of different races still do not have equal rights] ▪ *bastions* of democracy

¹bat /ˈbæt/ *noun, pl* **bats** [*count*]

1 : a long rounded stick that is used to hit the ball in baseball ▪ a baseball *bat*

2 : a long flattened stick that is used to hit the ball in cricket

3 *Brit* : PADDLE 2 ▪ a table tennis *bat*

at bat *baseball* **1** — used to describe the player or team that is batting ▪ He got a home run on his first time *at bat*. ▪ It's the bottom of the first inning and the home team is *at bat*. [=is batting] **2** : the act of batting ▪ She has two hits in three *at bats*.

go to bat *baseball* : to be the player or team that is batting ▪ The visiting team *goes to bat* first. [=the visiting team bats first]

go to bat for *US, informal* : to try to help, support, or defend (someone or something) in an active way ▪ Many of

his friends *went to bat for him* while he was under investigation for fraud.

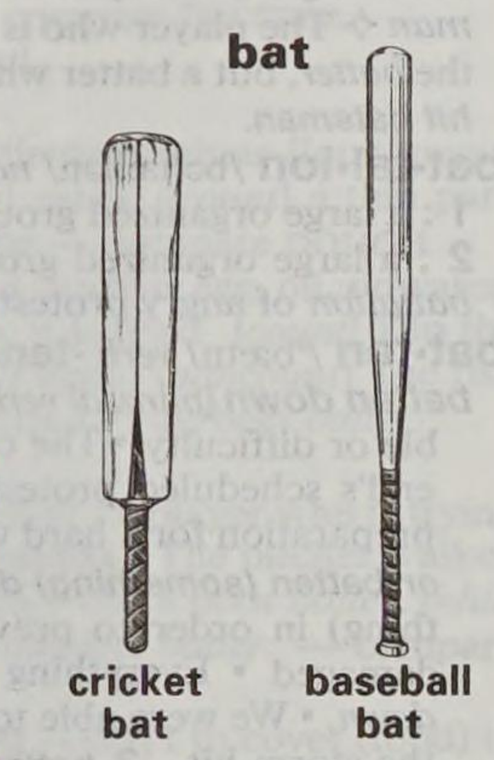
off the bat *chiefly US, informal* : without any delay : IMMEDIATELY — usually used with *right* ▪ I could tell it was fake ***right off the bat***. [=*right away*]

off your own bat *Brit, informal* : through your own efforts ▪ He didn't need my help—he made good *off his own bat*.

– compare [3]BAT

[2]bat *verb* **bats**; **bat•ted**; **bat•ting**

1 a [+ *obj*] : to hit (something, such as a ball) with a bat, club, etc., or with your hand ▪ The ball was *batted* down. ▪ a ***batted ball*** [=a ball that has been hit by a batter in baseball] **b** [*no obj*] : to try to hit a ball with a bat in baseball, cricket, or a similar game ▪ It's your turn to *bat*. ▪ She was *batting* when it began to rain. ▪ Who's *batting*? = Who's ***up to bat***?



2 [*no obj*] *baseball* : to have a specified batting average ▪ This year he's *batting* [=*hitting*] .300. [=his batting average is .300] ▪ She has five hits in five at bats, so she's ***batting a thousand***. [=her batting average is 1.000] ✧ In figurative use, to *bat a thousand* is to succeed in every attempt. This is an informal phrase that is used chiefly in U.S. English. ▪ So far in her career, she's *batting a thousand*. [=she has succeeded in everything she has done in her career] ▪ No one *bats a thousand* in this business.

bat around [*phrasal verb*] ***bat (something) around*** *or* ***bat around (something)*** *informal* : to think about or talk about (something, such as an idea) for a period of time ▪ The plan was *batted around* for a while, but it was finally rejected. ▪ We've been *batting* the idea *around* for a few years.

bat in [*phrasal verb*] ***bat in (a run)*** *also* ***bat (a run) in*** *baseball* : to hit the ball in a way that makes it possible for a run to score ▪ He *batted in* 70 runs last year.

– compare [4]BAT

– **batting** *adj, always used before a noun* ▪ *batting* practice ▪ a *batting* coach ▪ *batting* gloves/helmets

[3]bat *noun, pl* **bats** [*count*]

1 : an animal that has wings and a furry body like a mouse

2 *informal* : an unpleasant old woman ▪ Don't take any notice of that ***old bat***!



bats in the/your belfry see BELFRY

(as) blind as a bat see [1]BLIND

like a bat out of hell *informal* : very quickly ▪ He ran out of the house *like a bat out of hell*.

– compare [1]BAT

[4]bat *verb* **bats**; **batted**; **batting** [+ *obj*] : to close and open (your eyes or eyelashes) very quickly several times especially as a way of flirting ▪ She smiled and *batted* her eyelashes at him.

not bat an eye/eyelash (*US*) *or Brit* ***not bat an eyelid*** *informal* : to show no surprise, fear, concern, etc. ▪ He thought the news would make her upset, but she ***never batted an eye***. [=she did not appear to be upset at all] ▪ He listened ***without batting an eyelash***.

– compare [2]BAT

bat•boy /ˈbætˌboɪ/ *noun, pl* **-boys** [*count*] : a boy who takes care of the bats, balls, and other equipment used by a baseball team

batch /ˈbætʃ/ *noun, pl* **batch•es** [*count*]

1 : an amount of something that is made at one time ▪ We baked two *batches* of cookies. ▪ a fresh *batch* of salsa ▪ mixing another *batch* of cement ▪ Fry the potatoes ***in batches***. [=fry one amount and then another amount and so on until all the potatoes have been fried]

2 : a group of people or things ▪ They're hiring another *batch* of workers. ▪ a new *batch* [=*bunch*] of television shows

3 *computers* : a set of jobs that a computer does together at one time — usually used before another noun ▪ *batch* processing

bat•ed /ˈbeɪtəd/ *adj*

with bated breath : in a nervous and excited state because you do not know what will happen ▪ They waited for the answer *with bated breath*. [=they nervously waited for the answer]

[1]bath /ˈbæθ, *Brit* ˈbɑːθ/ *noun, pl* **baths** /ˈbæðz, ˈbæθs, *Brit* ˈbɑːðz, ˈbɑːθs/

1 [*count*] **a** : the act of washing the body usually by sitting or lying in a container filled with water ▪ Do you prefer *baths* or showers? ▪ I was taking a *bath* when the phone rang. ▪ (*chiefly Brit*) I was having a *bath*. ▪ We tried giving the dog a *bath* in the bathtub. ▪ a long hot *bath* ▪ *bath* towels [=large towels used for drying yourself after a bath or shower] — see also BUBBLE BATH, SPONGE BATH, TURKISH BATH, TAKE A BATH (below) **b** : the water used for a bath ▪ a *bath* of warm/hot water ▪ I was in the *bath* when the phone rang. ▪ Would you like me to ***draw/run a bath*** for you? [=to fill the bathtub with water for you?] **c** *chiefly Brit* : BATHTUB ▪ He slipped and fell in the *bath*.

2 [*count*] *chiefly US* : BATHROOM — used when describing the number or kinds of bathrooms in a place ▪ a room with a private *bath* ▪ The house has three bedrooms and one and a half *baths*. [=one full bathroom and one bathroom with only a sink and a toilet] ▪ a ***full bath*** [=a bathroom with a sink, toilet, and a bathtub or shower]

3 baths [*plural*] **a** : a public building where people in the past went to wash or soak their bodies ▪ ancient Roman *baths* **b** *Brit, old-fashioned* : a public building with a swimming pool in it

4 [*count*] *technical* : a container filled with a liquid in which an object is placed to be cleaned, treated, etc. ▪ She dipped the metal in a *bath* of acid. ▪ a chemical *bath*

take a bath *US, informal* : to lose a large amount of money in a business deal ▪ The movie studio *took a bath* on his last picture. — see also [1]BATH 1a (above)

– see also BLOODBATH

[2]bath *verb* **baths**; **bathed**; **bath•ing** *Brit*

1 [+ *obj*] : to wash (someone) in a container filled with water : to give a bath to (someone) ▪ She *baths* [=(*US*) *bathes*] the baby in the kitchen sink.

2 [*no obj*] *formal* : to have a bath : to wash yourself in a bath ▪ I usually *bath* [=(*US*) *bathe*] before going to bed.

[1]bathe /ˈbeɪð/ *verb* **bathes**; **bathed**; **bath•ing**

1 [*no obj*] *chiefly US* : to take a bath : to wash yourself in a bath ▪ I always *bathe* [=(*Brit*) *bath*] in the morning.

2 [+ *obj*] *chiefly US* : to wash (someone) in a container filled with water : to give a bath to (someone) ▪ We'll *bathe* [=(*Brit*) *bath*] the baby after she eats.

3 [*no obj*] *somewhat old-fashioned* : to swim for pleasure ▪ We *bathed* [=*swam*] in the ocean. — see also SUNBATHE

4 [+ *obj*] : to wash or rinse (a part of the body) ▪ If the chemical comes in contact with the eyes, *bathe* the eyes with water for 10 minutes.

5 [+ *obj*] : to cover (an area or surface) with light ▪ The moon *bathed* the town in light. = The town was *bathed* in moonlight.

bathed in sweat : covered with sweat : very sweaty ▪ He was *bathed in sweat* when he finished exercising.

– **bath•er** /ˈbeɪðɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] ▪ a beach crowded with *bathers* [=*swimmers*] – **bathing** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ a beach where *bathing* [=*swimming*] is not allowed ▪ nude *bathing* ▪ I like to ***go bathing*** [=*go swimming*] on summer mornings before breakfast. ▪ a ***bathing cap*** [=a cap worn for swimming]

[2]bathe *noun, pl* **bathes** [*count*] *Brit* : the act of swimming for pleasure : SWIM ▪ We went for a *bathe* in the sea.

bath•house /ˈbæθˌhaʊs, *Brit* ˈbɑːθˌhaʊs/ *noun, pl* **-hous•es** [*count*]

1 : a public building where people go to take baths, showers, etc.

2 *US* : a public building at a beach where people go to put on the clothes they use for swimming

bathing costume *noun, pl* ~ **-tumes** [*count*] *Brit* : SWIMSUIT

bathing suit *noun, pl* ~ **suits** [*count*] *chiefly US* : SWIMSUIT

bath mat *noun, pl* ~ **mats** [*count*]

1 : a small rug outside a bathtub for people to stand on while they are drying themselves after a bath or shower — see picture at BATHROOM

2 : a rubber mat in a bathtub for people to stand on without slipping during a bath or shower

ba•thos /'beɪˌθɑːs/ *noun* [*noncount*] *formal* : the sudden appearance of a silly idea or event in a book, movie discussion, etc., that is serious in tone ▪ The serious message of the film is ruined by the *bathos* of its ridiculous ending.

bath•robe /'bæθˌroʊb, *Brit* 'bɑːθˌrəʊb/ *noun, pl* **-robes** [*count*] : a loose piece of clothing that wraps around your body and is worn especially before or after a bath — see color picture on page C12

bath•room /'bæθˌruːm, *Brit* 'bɑːθˌruːm/ *noun, pl* **-rooms** [*count*]

1 : a room with a sink and toilet and usually a bathtub or shower ▪ Their house has three *bathrooms*. ✧ In U.S. English, a bathroom is mainly thought of as a room with a toilet. In British English, a bathroom is mainly thought of as a room with a bathtub or shower.

2 *US* : a room in a public place with a toilet and sink ▪ The restaurant has only one *bathroom*. ▪ a public *bathroom* [=*restroom, lavatory*]

go to the bathroom *or* ***use the bathroom*** *US* : to use the toilet ▪ The little boy told his mother that he had to *go to the bathroom*. ▪ You should *use the bathroom* before we leave.

bath•tub /'bæθˌtʌb, *Brit* 'bɑːθˌtʌb/ *noun, pl* **-tubs** [*count*] *chiefly US* : a large and long container in which people take baths or showers — called also (*chiefly Brit*) *bath*, (*US*) *tub*; see picture at BATHROOM

bath•water /'bæθˌwɑːtɚ, *Brit* 'bɑːθˌwɔːtə/ *noun* [*noncount*] : water used for a bath

throw out the baby with the bathwater see ¹BABY

bat mitz•vah /bɑt'mɪtsvə/ *noun, pl* ~ **-vahs** [*count*] : a ceremony and celebration for a Jewish girl usually on her 13th birthday when she takes on the religious duties and responsibilities of an adult; *also* : a girl for whom a bat mitzvah is held — called also *bas mitzvah*; compare BAR MITZVAH

ba•ton /bə'tɑːn, *Brit* 'bæˌtɒn/ *noun, pl* **-tons** [*count*]

1 : a thin stick that is used by a music conductor to lead a band or orchestra

2 : a long thin stick with a ball at one end or both ends that is carried by someone who performs with or leads a marching band ▪ The majorette twirled the *baton*.

3 : NIGHTSTICK ▪ a policeman's *baton*

4 : a stick that is passed from one runner to the next runner in a relay race ▪ They practiced passing the *baton*. ▪ One of the runners dropped the *baton*. — sometimes used figuratively ▪ The chef recently ***passed the baton*** [=gave the job and responsibility that had been hers] to her young assistant.

bats•man /'bætsmən/ *noun, pl* **-men** [*count*] : a player who is batting especially in the game of cricket ▪ a skillful *batsman* ✧ The player who is batting in baseball is usually called the *batter*, but a batter who has been hit by a pitch is called a ***hit batsman***.

bat•tal•ion /bə'tæljən/ *noun, pl* **-ions** [*count*]

1 : a large organized group of soldiers

2 : a large organized group of people who act together ▪ a *battalion* of angry protesters

¹bat•ten /'bætn̩/ *verb* **-tens**; **-tened**; **-ten•ing**

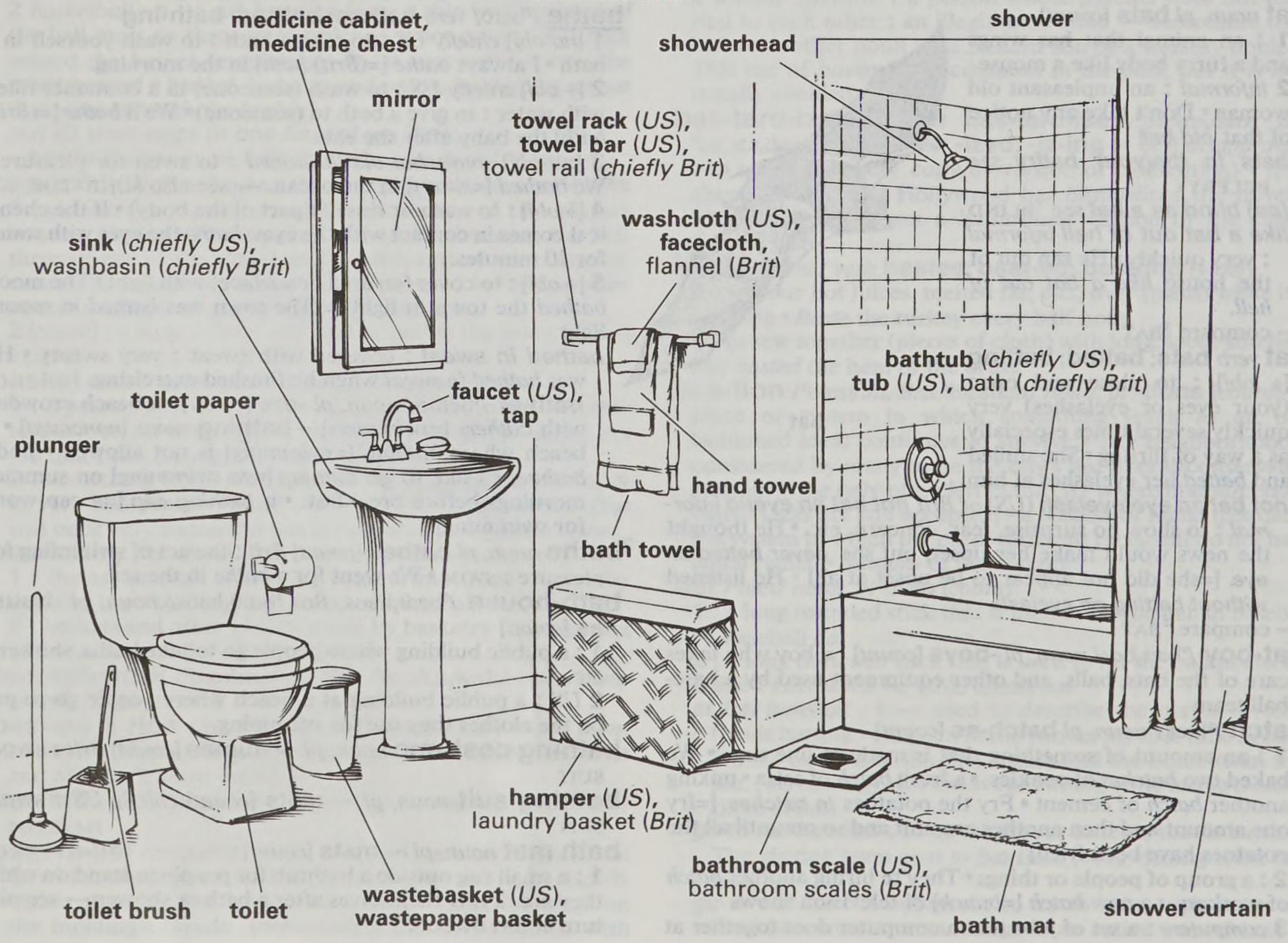
batten down [*phrasal verb*] **1** : to prepare for possible trouble or difficulty ▪ The city is *battening down* for the weekend's scheduled protests. ▪ People are *battening down* in preparation for a hard winter. **2** ***batten down (something) or batten (something) down*** : to tie, close, or cover (something) in order to prevent it from moving or becoming damaged ▪ Everything on the ship's deck was *battened down*. ▪ We were able to *batten down* the house just before the storm hit. **3** ***batten down the hatches*** : to prepare a boat or ship for dangerous stormy weather by closing and covering the openings in the deck — often used figuratively ▪ As the economy grows worse, investors need to *batten down the hatches* and prepare for tough times ahead.

batten on [*phrasal verb*] ***batten on (something or someone)*** *Brit, formal* + *disapproving* : to live well or succeed by using (something or someone) ▪ someone who *battens on* the strength/generosity of others

²batten *noun, pl* **-tens** [*count*] : a long thin piece of wood that is used to connect and support other pieces of wood

¹bat•ter /'bætɚ/ *verb* **-ters**; **-tered**; **-ter•ing** [+ *obj*] : to hit (something or someone) forcefully many times in a way that causes much damage or injury ▪ Storms *battered* the shore. ▪ He forced his opponent into the corner and *battered* him with a series of hard punches. ▪ During the war, the city was *battered* by bombs. ▪ For thousands of years, these moun-

bathroom



taintops have been *battered* by sun, wind, and rain. ▪ Her ex-husband had *battered* her for many years. ▪ children who are abused and *battered* by their parents ▪ He tried to ***batter down*** [=*break down*] the door by kicking it. [=to force the door to open by kicking it hard] — often used figuratively ▪ Businesses in the area have been *battered* [=badly damaged] by the bad economy. ▪ a country *battered* by years of war and poverty ▪ The team's confidence was *battered* by a series of losses. — see also BATTERED — compare [4]BATTER

– **bat•ter•er** *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]

[2]batter *noun, pl* **-ters**

1 : a mixture of different ingredients (such as flour, sugar, eggs, and oil) that is cooked and eaten [*count*] a thin pancake *batter* [*noncount*] cake *batter* — compare DOUGH

2 : a mixture of flour and a liquid (such as egg, oil, or water) that is used to cover food before it is fried [*count*] Dip the fish in a *batter* of flour, milk, and eggs. [*noncount*] The fish was coated with *batter* and then fried. ▪ egg/beer *batter* – compare [3]BATTER

[3]batter *noun, pl* **-ters** [*count*] *baseball* **:** a player who is trying to hit the ball **:** a player who is batting ▪ The pitcher walked the first *batter*. ▪ He's a good fielder but a poor *batter*. [=*hitter*] ▪ She's a right-handed/left-handed *batter*. — compare [2]BATTER

[4]batter *verb* **-ters; -tered; -tering** [+ *obj*] **:** to cover (food) in a batter and then fry it ▪ *Batter* the fish and then fry it for 10 minutes. ▪ lightly/thickly *battered* pieces of fish — compare [1]BATTER

battered *adj*

1 [*more ~; most ~*] **:** damaged by being used too much or in a careless way ▪ He wore a very *battered* old hat and sunglasses. ▪ We finally sold our *battered* truck and bought a new car.

2 : badly injured by being hit many times ▪ The police took pictures of the victim's *battered* body. ▪ the bruised and *battered* face of a boxer

3 : physically hurt by another person (such as a husband or parent) ▪ a *battered* wife/woman ▪ *battered* children

battering *noun* [*singular*] **:** an attack in which someone is badly injured by being hit many times ▪ The victim suffered a vicious *battering*. — often used figuratively ▪ The party is expected to ***take a battering*** [=to do very poorly] in the upcoming election. ▪ markets that have recently *taken a battering*

battering ram *noun, pl ~* **rams** [*count*] **:** a large and heavy piece of wood or other material that is used to hit and break through walls and doors

[1]bat•tery /ˈbætəri/ *noun, pl* **-ter•ies**

1 [*count*] **:** a device that is placed inside a machine (such as a clock, toy, or car) to supply it with electricity ▪ I bought new *batteries* for the flashlights. ▪ a car *battery* ▪ *battery*-powered computers ▪ a ***dead battery*** = (*Brit*) a ***flat battery*** [=a battery that has no more electricity] — see picture at CAR

2 [*count*] **:** a usually large group of similar people, things, or ideas that work together, are used together, etc. ▪ a *battery* of tests ▪ The operation was performed by a *battery* of doctors.

3 [*count*] **:** a group of two or more big guns used by the military ▪ an artillery *battery*

4 [*noncount*] *law* **:** the crime of hitting or touching someone in a way that is meant to cause harm or injury ▪ He was found guilty of *battery*. — see also ASSAULT AND BATTERY

5 [*count*] *baseball* **:** the pitcher and catcher on a particular team

recharge your batteries see RECHARGE

[2]battery *adj, always used before a noun, Brit* **:** relating to or produced by a type of farming in which animals (such as chickens) are kept in small cages ▪ a *battery* farm ▪ *battery* chickens versus free-range chickens

batting average *noun, pl ~* **averages** [*count*] *baseball* **:** a number that shows how often a batter gets a base hit ▪ an excellent hitter with a *batting average* above .300 ▪ a low/high *batting average* — sometimes used figuratively ▪ a movie director with a high *batting average* [=a director who has created many successful movies and few unsuccessful movies]

[1]bat•tle /ˈbætl/ *noun, pl* **bat•tles**

1 a : a military fight between groups of soldiers, ships, airplanes, etc. [*count*] That two-day conflict has become one of the most famous *battles* in history. ▪ The *battle* continued late into the night. ▪ the *battle* of Gettysburg [*noncount*] The men never spoke of the difficulties of *battle*. [=*war*] ▪ Hundreds of dead soldiers lay on the ***field of battle***. [=the battlefield] ▪ the brave warriors who died/fell ***in battle*** [=while fighting in a war] ▪ Thousands of soldiers were willing to go ***into battle*** to fight the enemy. **b** [*count*] **:** a violent fight in which people use weapons ▪ A police officer was injured in a gun *battle* that took place last night.

2 [*count*] **a :** a fight between people or groups in which each side tries to win a contest (such as a game or an election) or to gain control of something (such as a company) ▪ The divorced couple is now in a fierce custody *battle* over their son. [=a legal fight about who their son will live with] ▪ The company was involved in a legal *battle* with/against one of its employees. ▪ He has been engaged in a ***running battle*** [=a fight or disagreement that continues for a long time] with the government over the amount of money he owes in taxes. — often + *for* ▪ They are engaged in a *battle for* the presidency. [=a fight to win an election and become the president] ▪ a *battle for* control of the land — often followed by *to* + *verb* ▪ a *battle to control* the land ✧ A ***battle of wits*** is a contest in which each side tries to win by being smarter or cleverer than the other side. ▪ In this movie, it's a *battle of wits* as the bank robbers try to outsmart the city's detectives. ✧ A ***battle of wills*** is a contest in which each side tries to win by refusing to stop trying. ▪ The workers' strike became a difficult *battle of wills* between the company and the labor union. **b :** a fight between two different or opposite forces ▪ the never-ending *battle* between/of good and evil ▪ The comedy is a classic treatment of the ***battle of the sexes***. [=the struggle for power between women and men]

3 [*count*] **:** a long struggle to succeed or survive during a difficult situation ▪ Last year, he lost his 10-year *battle* with/against AIDS. [=he died of AIDS after being sick with the disease for 10 years] ▪ Starting her own business has proven to be an ***uphill battle***. [=a very difficult struggle] ✧ If you are involved in a ***losing battle*** you are trying to do something with little or no chance of success. ▪ I tried to get him to change his mind, but it was a *losing battle*. [=he refused to change his mind] ▪ She tried to stay awake but it was a *losing battle*. ▪ a gardener ***fighting a losing battle*** against weeds

do battle **:** to fight or struggle ▪ political opponents who have been *doing battle* [=*battling*] for years — usually + *with* ▪ political opponents who have been *doing battle with* each other for years ▪ soldiers *doing battle with* the enemy

half the battle **:** an important and necessary part of doing or achieving something ▪ When you're opening a new restaurant, good advertising is *half the battle*. — often used with words like *only* and *just* to stress that something is not enough by itself to achieve a desired goal ▪ If you want a career in show business, having talent is *only half the battle*—you also need to be lucky.

in the heat of (the) battle **:** while fighting in a battle ▪ The soldier became confused *in the heat of battle*. — often used figuratively ▪ He apologized to his wife for the angry things he had said to her *in the heat of battle*. [=while they were arguing]

join battle see JOIN

[2]battle *verb* **battles; bat•tled; bat•tling**

1 [*no obj*] **:** to fight with weapons ▪ The army *battled* for control of the bridge. ▪ The *battling* armies agreed to a truce.

2 [*no obj*] **a :** to try or struggle very hard *to do* something ▪ The team *battled* [=*fought*] bravely *to win* their last game. ▪ They *battled* [=*struggled*] *to keep* their son out of jail. **:** to struggle or fight *for* something ▪ The two families have *battled for* control of the land for many years. **b :** to fight or argue with someone *over* something ▪ The couple *battled* fiercely *over* how to spend their money.

3 [+ *obj*] **a :** to fight, compete, or argue with (someone or something) ▪ The two teams are set to *battle* each other for the championship. ▪ Members of both parties continue to *battle* the governor over her policies. **b :** to try to stop or defeat (something) ▪ Hundreds of firefighters came to help *battle* the forest fire. ▪ People often need help *battling* their drug and alcohol problems. ▪ She's been *battling* cancer for 10 years. ▪ *battling* the forces of evil

battle it out **:** to argue or fight ▪ People were *battling it out* [=*fighting it out*] over parking spaces. ▪ The two sides are now *battling it out* in the courtroom.

bat•tle–ax (*US*) *or Brit* **bat•tle–axe** /ˈbætlˌæks/ *noun, pl* **-ax•es** [*count*]

1 : an ax with a large blade that was used as a weapon in the past

2 *informal + disapproving* **:** an unpleasant older woman who speaks in an angry way and tries to control others

battle cruiser *noun, pl ~* **-ers** [*count*] **:** a ship that is used in fighting wars and that is lighter and faster than a battleship

battle cry *noun, pl ~* **cries** [*count*]

1 : a word, phrase, or sound that is shouted by soldiers in a battle : WAR CRY
2 : a phrase or saying that is used to make people support an idea, a cause, etc. ▪ "Just Say No!" was the President's *battle cry* [=*rallying cry*] for stopping the use of illegal drugs.

battle fatigue *noun* [*noncount*] : a mental illness that is caused by the experiences of fighting in a war and that causes extreme feelings of nervousness, depression, etc. — called also *combat fatigue*, *shell shock*; compare POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER

bat·tle·field /ˈbætlˌfi:ld/ *noun, pl* **-fields** [*count*]
1 : a place where a battle is fought ▪ Hundreds of dead soldiers lay on the *battlefield*.
2 : an area of conflict or disagreement ▪ a political *battlefield*

bat·tle·ground /ˈbætlˌgraʊnd/ *noun, pl* **-grounds** [*count*] : BATTLEFIELD: such as **a** : a place where a battle is fought ▪ an ancient *battleground* **b** : an area of conflict or disagreement ▪ a political *battleground*

battle line *noun, pl* ~ **lines** [*count*] : a line of soldiers who are fighting in a battle — usually used figuratively in phrases like ***the battle lines have been drawn*** to say that groups of people strongly disagree about an issue and are fighting or arguing with each other ▪ When (the) *battle lines were drawn* over the issue of new taxes, she was quick to side with the governor.

bat·tle·ment /ˈbætlmənt/ *noun, pl* **-ments** [*count*] : a low wall at the top of a castle with open spaces for people inside to shoot through — usually plural ▪ the castle's stone *battlements*

bat·tle·ship /ˈbætlˌʃɪp/ *noun, pl* **-ships** [*count*] : a large ship that has many big guns and is used in fighting wars

bat·ty /ˈbæti/ *adj* **bat·ti·er**; **-est** *informal*
1 : foolish or silly ▪ It's just another one of her *batty* [=*harebrained*, *nutty*, *wacky*] ideas.
2 : CRAZY ▪ She's a little *batty*. ▪ His bad jokes ***drive me batty*** [=make me feel angry or annoyed]

bau·ble /ˈbɑ:bəl/ *noun, pl* **bau·bles** [*count*]
1 : an inexpensive piece of jewelry ▪ shiny glass *baubles*
2 *Brit* : a shiny ball that is hung on a Christmas tree as a decoration

baulk *Brit spelling of* ¹BALK

baux·ite /ˈbɑ:kˌsaɪt/ *noun* [*noncount*] *technical* : a soft substance that looks like clay and that is the source of aluminum

bawdy /ˈbɑ:di/ *adj* **bawd·i·er**; **-est** : dealing with sex in a way that is meant to be funny ▪ *bawdy* [=*vulgar*, *lewd*] jokes ▪ a *bawdy* film that is not appropriate for children

bawl /ˈbɑ:l/ *verb* **bawls**; **bawled**; **bawl·ing**
1 [*no obj*] : to cry very loudly ▪ He lay on his bed, *bawling* [=*sobbing*, *wailing*] uncontrollably. ✧ To ***bawl your eyes out*** is to cry loudly especially for a long time. ▪ It's the saddest book I've ever read. I *bawled my eyes out* at the end.
2 *informal* : to say or shout (something) using a very loud voice [+ *obj*] "Get in the car!" he *bawled*. [*no obj*] The sergeant *bawled* [=*shouted*, *yelled*] at the soldier.
bawl out [*phrasal verb*] ***bawl out (someone)*** *or* ***bawl (someone) out*** *chiefly US, informal* : to yell at (someone) for doing something bad or wrong ▪ His boss *bawled him out* for forgetting about the meeting.

¹bay /ˈbeɪ/ *noun, pl* **bays** [*count*] : a large area of water that is part of an ocean or lake and partly surrounded by land ▪ They went fishing in the *bay*. ▪ She lives in California near San Francisco *Bay*. — see color picture on page C7 — compare ²BAY, ³BAY, ⁴BAY, ⁵BAY

²bay *noun, pl* **bays** [*count*]
1 : a section of a ship, airplane, etc., that is used for a special purpose (such as storing things) ▪ a cargo *bay* on a ship ▪ the airplane's bomb *bay* ▪ an engine *bay*
2 : a section of a room or building ▪ a barn with three *bays* — see also BAY WINDOW
– compare ¹BAY, ³BAY, ⁴BAY, ⁵BAY

³bay *noun*
at bay : in the position of being unable to move closer while attacking or trying to approach someone — used with *keep* or *hold* ▪ The soldiers *kept the attackers at bay*. [=they did not allow the attackers to come closer] ▪ Armed with a gun, he *held the police at bay* [=he did not allow the police to arrest him] for 10 hours. — often used figuratively ▪ Although the doctors had been able to *keep her illness at bay* [=to prevent her illness from becoming worse] for a few months, the disease soon began to spread again.
– compare ¹BAY, ²BAY, ⁴BAY, ⁵BAY

⁴bay *noun, pl* **bays** [*count*] : a kind of European tree that has leaves which are used in cooking — see also BAY LEAF — compare ¹BAY, ²BAY, ³BAY, ⁵BAY

⁵bay *noun, pl* **bays** [*count*] : a horse that is a reddish-brown color — compare ¹BAY, ²BAY, ³BAY, ⁴BAY
– **bay** *adj, of a horse* ▪ a *bay* [=reddish-brown] colt/mare

⁶bay *verb* **bays**; **bayed**; **bay·ing** [*no obj*]
1 : to bark with long sounds ▪ The dog was *baying* [=*howling*] at the moon.
2 : to shout or cry out in a loud and often angry way ▪ a *baying* crowd ▪ an angry mob ***baying for blood*** [=angrily demanding or threatening violence]

bay leaf *noun, pl* ~ **leaves** [*count*] : a dried leaf from the bay tree that has a sweet smell and is used in cooking

bay·o·net /ˈbejənət/ *noun, pl* **-nets** [*count*] : a long knife that is attached to the end of a rifle and used as a weapon in battle
– **bayonet** *verb* **-nets**; **-net·ed**; **-net·ing** [+ *obj*] ▪ The soldier was *bayoneted* in the chest.

bay·ou /ˈbaju/ *noun, pl* **-ous** [*count*] : an area of water in the southern U.S. in which the water moves very slowly and is filled with many plants ▪ Louisiana *bayous*

bay window *noun, pl* ~ **-dows** [*count*] : a large window or set of windows that sticks out from the outside wall of a building — see picture at WINDOW

ba·zaar /bəˈzɑɚ/ *noun, pl* **-zaars** [*count*]
1 : a type of market found especially in Middle Eastern countries that has rows of small shops which sell many different kinds of things
2 : an event at which things are sold to raise money for people or an organization ▪ a charity *bazaar* ▪ church *bazaars*

ba·zoo·ka /bəˈzu:kə/ *noun, pl* **-kas** [*count*] : a military weapon that rests on a person's shoulder and fires small rockets at tanks

BB /ˈbi:ˌbi:/ *noun, pl* **BBs** [*count*] : a small metal ball that is fired from a BB gun

b–ball /ˈbi:ˌbɑ:l/ *noun* [*noncount*] *US, informal* : BASKETBALL

BBC *abbr* British Broadcasting Corporation ✧ The *BBC* is a radio and television company that is owned by the British government.

BB gun *noun, pl* ~ **guns** [*count*] *chiefly US* : a gun that uses air pressure to fire small metal balls (called BBs)

BBQ *abbr* barbecue

BC *or chiefly US* **B.C.** *abbr* before Christ — used to refer to the years that came before the birth of Jesus Christ ▪ 550 *B.C.* ▪ in the fifth century *B.C.* [=between the years 499 and 400 *B.C.*] — compare A.D., B.C.E., C.E.

BCE *or chiefly US* **B.C.E.** *abbr* before the Christian Era; before the Common Era — used to refer to the years that came before the birth of Jesus Christ ✧ *B.C.E.* is now often used instead of *B.C.* especially in scientific writing. ▪ 550 *B.C.E.* ▪ in the fifth century *B.C.E.* [=between the years 499 and 400 *B.C.E.*] — compare A.D., B.C., C.E.

be /ˈbi:/ *verb, present first singular* **am** /ˈæm, əm/ *second singular* **are** /ˈɑɚ, ɚ/ *third singular* **is** /ˈɪz, əz/ *pl* **are**; *past tense for first and third singular* **was** /ˈwəz/ *second singular* **were** /ˈwɚ/ *pl* **were**; *past participle* **been** /ˈbɪn, *Brit* ˈbi:n/ *present participle* **be·ing** /ˈbi:jɪŋ/
1 [*linking verb*] **a** — used to indicate the identity of a person or thing ▪ Today *is* Wednesday. ▪ John *is* my brother. ▪ The first person I met *was* Susan. = Susan *was* the first person I met. ▪ Who *are* you? ▪ "There's someone at the door." "Who *is* it?" "It's David." ▪ Your responsibility *is* to keep this area clean. = Keeping this area clean *is* your responsibility. **b** — used to describe the qualities of a person or thing ▪ My hands *are* cold. ▪ He *is* 35 years old and six feet tall. ▪ I'*m* hungry. ▪ The leaves *are* green, and so *is* the grass. ▪ The noise *was* very loud. ▪ The way he behaves *is* foolish. ▪ How foolish he *is*! ▪ "(*Are*) You hungry?" "Yes, I *am*." ▪ The book *is* about English grammar. ▪ These people *are* with me. ▪ The letter *is* for you. ▪ They asked the students not to *be* late. = They asked that the students not *be* late. ▪ Treat people with respect, whether they *are* rich or poor. = (formal) Treat people with respect, whether they *be* rich or poor. = (formal) Treat people with respect, *be* they rich or poor. ▪ Our neighbors are *being* unusually friendly lately. ▪ Don't *be* such a fool! [=don't act in such a foolish way] ▪ ***To be*** perfectly/quite honest/frank (with you), I didn't like the movie. [=I am speaking honestly/frankly when I say that I didn't like the movie] ▪ The book *is* mine. ▪ I'd do it ***if I were you***. [=I think you should do it] **c** — used to indicate the condition of a person or thing ▪ "Hi.

How *are* you?" "Fine, thanks. How *are* you?" ▪ How *is* your father? = How *is* your father's health?

2 [*linking verb*] — used to indicate the group, class, category, etc., that a person or thing belongs to ▪ I'*m* a doctor and my sister *is* a lawyer. ▪ That fish *is* a trout. ▪ The trout *is* a (kind of) fish. ▪ Apes *are* mammals. ▪ She'*s* a hard worker. [=she works hard] ▪ What a fool he *is*! [=he is a fool] ▪ *Being* an artist herself [=because she is an artist herself], she tends to look at other people's paintings very critically.

3 [*linking verb*] — used to indicate the place, situation, or position of a person or thing ▪ The book *is* on the table. ▪ "Where'*s* John?" "He'*s* in the living room." ▪ The house *is* past the bridge. ▪ It was great *being* here. = It was great *to be* here. ▪ I must *be* on my way. [=I must go] ▪ Here'*s* the book. = Here it *is*.

4 [*linking verb*] **a** — used in phrases with *there* to describe a situation, occurrence, etc. ▪ *There is* a book on the table. [=a book is on the table] ▪ *There are* concerts several times a week. [=concerts are held several times a week] ▪ *There* will *be* concerts next week. ▪ "*There's* someone at the door." "Who is it?" "It's John." **b** — used in phrases with *it* to indicate a time or place or to describe a current, past, or future condition ▪ *It's* 12 o'clock. [=the time is 12 o'clock] ▪ *It's* noon/early/late. ▪ *It's* Wednesday today. [=today is Wednesday] ▪ *It was* noon when we arrived. [=we arrived at noon] ▪ *It was* here that I lost my way. [=I lost my way here] ▪ *It's* raining. ▪ *It's* hot out! ▪ *It's* odd that he didn't see us. [=the fact that he didn't see us was odd]

5 [*linking verb*] — used to say how much something costs ▪ "I like this painting. How much *is* it?" [=how much does it cost?] "*It's* 600 dollars." [=it costs 600 dollars]

6 [*linking verb*] — used to say that one amount or number is the same as another ▪ Three plus two *is* [=*equals*] five.

7 [*no obj*] : to happen or take place ▪ The concert *was* last night. ▪ The concert *is* [=*will be*] tomorrow night. [=the concert will take place tomorrow night] ▪ "When *was* the Battle of Waterloo?" "(It *was*) In 1815." ▪ "When *is* Christmas?" "*It's* on a Wednesday this year."

8 [*no obj*] : to come or go — used in perfect tenses ▪ She has already *been* [=*come*] and gone. ▪ Have you ever *been* [=*gone*] to Rome? ▪ I haven't *been* there for several years. ▪ I've been waiting for you for half an hour. ***Where have you been***? [=where were you?; why weren't you here?] ✧ People who have ***been there, done that*** are bored about the idea of going somewhere or doing something because they have already done it before. This is an informal phrase that is often used in a joking way. ▪ I suggested to my cousin that she go to Florida for her vacation, but she said, "*Been there, done that*."

9 [*no obj*] *somewhat formal* : to exist or live ▪ I think, therefore I *am*. [=*exist*] ▪ Once upon a time there *was* [=*lived*] a knight. ▪ There once *was* a man who dwelt alone in a small village. ▪ all the things that *are* [=*exist*] ▪ "To *be*, or not to *be*: that is the question." —Shakespeare, *Hamlet* (1600)

10 [*auxiliary verb*] — used with the past participle of a verb to form passive constructions ▪ The money *was found* by a child. ▪ They *were* [=*got*] *married* by a priest. ▪ Don't *be fooled* by what he says. ▪ Please *be seated*. [=please sit down] ▪ The election *was expected* to produce a very close result. ▪ God *be praised*! [=let God be praised] ▪ I *was surprised* by her rudeness.

11 [*auxiliary verb*] **a** — used with the present participle of a verb to express continuous action ▪ They *are studying*. ▪ I have *been sleeping*. ▪ He *was reading*. ▪ *Are* you *getting* hungry? ▪ Our neighbors *are being* unusually friendly. **b** — used with the present participle of a verb to express future or later action ▪ I'*m seeing* him tomorrow. [=I will see him tomorrow] ▪ We *are leaving* soon. [=we will leave soon]

12 [*auxiliary verb*] **a** — used with *to* + *verb* to say what will happen or was going to happen in the future ▪ The best *is* yet/still *to come*. [=the best has not yet happened] ▪ No one realized that she *was* one day *to become* famous. [=that she would become famous one day] ▪ She *was* not/never *to see* him again. [=she would never see him again] ▪ There *are to be* two concerts next week. [=there will be two concerts next week] **b** — used with *to* + *verb* to say what should happen or be done ▪ People like that *are to be* pitied, not hated. [=people like that should be pitied] ▪ You *are* not (allowed) *to smoke* in here! ▪ What *am* I *to do*? [=what should I do?] **c** — used in negative statements with *to* + *verb* to say what is or was possible ▪ The truth of their argument *was not to be* denied. [=could not be denied] ▪ You're not to blame: you *weren't to know* he'd be offended. [=you could not have known that he would be offended] ▪ The book ***was nowhere to be found***. [=could not be found] **d** — used with *to* + *verb* to say that one thing must happen or be true so that another thing can happen or be true ▪ He must study if he *is to pass* his exams. [=he must study in order to pass his exams]

13 [*auxiliary verb*] — used like *have* with the past participle of some verbs to form perfect tenses ▪ He isn't here: he *is* [=*has*] gone. — now often considered archaic ▪ Christ *is* risen. [=Christ has risen]

be yourself : to behave in a normal or natural way ▪ You'*re* not *yourself* today. What's the matter? ▪ I'll *be myself* again once I've had something to eat. ▪ "How can I impress her?" "Just *be yourself*!"

leave (someone or something) be see ¹LEAVE

let (someone or something) be see ¹LET

the best is yet to be see ³BEST

the powers that be see ¹POWER

to be sure see ¹SURE

be- *prefix*

1 : make : cause to be ▪ *be*foul ▪ *be*numb : treat as ▪ *be*little ▪ *be*friend

2 : about ▪ *be*wail ▪ *be*moan ▪ *be*speak

3 : in a way that is easy to notice ▪ *be*whiskered ▪ *be*jeweled ▪ *be*spectacled

4 : thoroughly : very much ▪ *be*loved

¹beach /ˈbi:ʧ/ *noun, pl* **beach·es** [*count*] : an area covered with sand or small rocks that is next to an ocean or lake ▪ We spent the day at the *beach*. ▪ walking/lying on the *beach* ▪ white, sandy *beaches* ▪ private/public *beaches* — see color picture on page C7

²beach *verb* **beaches**; **beached**; **beach·ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to cause (a boat or ship) to go out of the water and onto a beach ▪ The pirates *beached* the ship on the island.

2 ✧ When a large ocean animal, such as a whale, is ***beached*** or has ***beached itself***, it has come out of the water onto land and is unable to return to the water. ▪ People were trying to rescue a whale that had *beached itself* on the shore. ▪ a *beached* whale

beach ball *noun, pl* ~ **balls** [*count*] : a large ball that is filled with air and made for use at the beach

beach buggy *noun, pl* ~ **-gies** [*count*] : DUNE BUGGY

beach·comb·er /ˈbi:ʧˌkoʊmɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : a person who walks along beaches looking for things (such as seashells or items that can be sold)

beach·front /ˈbi:ʧˌfrʌnt/ *noun, pl* **-fronts** [*count*] : an area of land that has a beach on one side ▪ We went for a walk along the *beachfront*. — often used before another noun ▪ *beachfront* properties

beach·head /ˈbi:ʧˌhɛd/ *noun, pl* **-heads** [*count*] : a beach on an enemy's shore that an invading army takes and controls in order to prepare for the arrival of more soldiers and supplies — often used figuratively to mean a place or position that serves as a base for future action or progress ▪ The company established a *beachhead* in New York City.

beach towel *noun, pl* ~ **-els** [*count*] : a large, usually brightly colored towel made for use at the beach

beach·wear /ˈbi:ʧˌweɚ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : clothing made to be worn at the beach

bea·con /ˈbi:kən/ *noun, pl* **-cons** [*count*]

1 : a strong light that can be seen from far away and that is used to help guide ships, airplanes, etc.

2 : a radio signal that is broadcast to help guide ships, airplanes, etc. ▪ a radio *beacon*

3 : someone or something (such as a country) that guides or gives hope to others ▪ These countries are *beacons* of democracy. ▪ Our nation should be a *beacon* of/for peace to people around the world. ▪ This new medicine is a ***beacon of hope*** for/to thousands of people. [=this new medicine gives hope to thousands of people]

4 *in the past* : a fire built on a hill and used as a signal

bead /ˈbi:d/ *noun, pl* **beads** [*count*]

1 : a small, usually round piece of glass, wood, stone, etc., that has a hole through its center and that is put on a string with other similar pieces and worn as jewelry or that is sewn onto clothing ▪ a string of *beads* ▪ She was wearing *beads*. [=a necklace of beads] — see color picture on page C11

2 : a small, round drop of liquid (such as water or blood) ▪ *Beads* of sweat began rolling/running down their faces.

draw a bead on *also US* ***get a bead on*** *or* ***take a bead on*** : to aim at (someone or something) ▪ He lifted the rifle and carefully *drew a bead on* the target. — often used figuratively ▪ The government is *drawing a bead on* inflation. [=is

targeting inflation] ▪ It's hard to *get a bead on* [=to understand] the reasons for her decision.

bead•ed /ˈbi:dəd/ *adj*
1 : decorated with beads ▪ fancy *beaded* dresses
2 : covered *with* small drops of sweat ▪ Her forehead was *beaded with* sweat/perspiration.

bead•ing /ˈbi:dɪŋ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : beads that are sewn on a piece of clothing as decoration

bead•work /ˈbi:dˌwɚk/ *noun* [*noncount*] : BEADING ▪ beautiful *beadwork*

beady /ˈbi:di/ *adj* **bead•i•er**; **-est** *disapproving* — used to describe eyes that are small, round, and shiny and that usually suggest a bad quality (such as greed or dishonesty) ▪ The workers were nervous because they knew the boss was watching them with his *beady* little eyes.

bea•gle /ˈbi:gəl/ *noun, pl* **bea•gles** [*count*] : a type of small dog used for hunting that has smooth black, brown, and white fur — see picture at DOG

beak /ˈbi:k/ *noun, pl* **beaks** [*count*]
1 : the hard usually pointed parts that cover a bird's mouth : BILL ▪ the *beak* of a hawk — see picture at BIRD
2 *informal + humorous* : a person's nose ▪ an actor with a big *beak*
– **beaked** /ˈbi:kt/ *adj* ▪ a long-*beaked* bird

bea•ker /ˈbi:kɚ/ *noun, pl* **-kers** [*count*]
1 : a wide glass with a lip for pouring that is used especially in chemistry for holding and measuring liquids
2 *chiefly Brit* : a large drinking cup with a wide opening that is typically made of plastic or metal

be–all and end–all /ˈbi:ˌɑ:lənd ˈɛndˌɑ:l/ *noun*
the be-all and end-all : the most important part of something or the reason for something ▪ He acts as if making money is *the be-all and end-all* of human existence.

[1]beam /ˈbi:m/ *noun, pl* **beams** [*count*]
1 a : a line of light coming from a source (such as the sun or a headlight) ▪ a bright *beam* of light ▪ We saw the *beams* from their flashlights. ▪ a laser *beam* — see also HIGH BEAM, LOW BEAM, SUNBEAM **b** : a line of energy, particles, etc., that cannot be seen ▪ a *beam* of electrons ▪ X-ray *beams*
2 : a long and heavy piece of wood or metal that is used as a support in a building or ship ▪ the building's steel support *beams* ▪ wood ceiling *beams* — see also BALANCE BEAM
off beam *Brit, informal* : incorrect or mistaken ▪ My guess was way *off beam*. [=(*US*) *off base*]
on the beam *informal* : exactly correct ▪ His description of the problem was right *on the beam*. [=(more commonly) *on the mark*]
– **beamed** *adj* ▪ The living room has a *beamed* ceiling. [=a ceiling that is supported with wood or metal beams]

[2]beam *verb* **beams**; **beamed**; **beam•ing**
1 a [*no obj*] : to smile happily ▪ She *beamed* as she told us the good news. ▪ They stood *beaming* with satisfaction. **b** [+ *obj*] : to say (something) while smiling happily ▪ "We're getting married!" he *beamed*.
2 : to send out beams of light or energy [*no obj*] Sunlight was *beaming* [=*shining*] through the window. [+ *obj*] The sun *beamed* its light through the window.
3 [+ *obj*] : to send out (information, television signals, etc.) through wires or the air ▪ Pictures of the distant planet were *beamed* back to the Earth.
4 [+ *obj*] *in stories* : to send (someone) to another place instantly by using a special machine ▪ The space explorers were *beamed* onto the surface of the planet.

[1]bean /ˈbi:n/ *noun, pl* **beans** [*count*]
1 a : a seed that is eaten as a vegetable and that comes from any one of many different kinds of climbing plants ▪ We ate rice and *beans* for dinner. **b** : a part of a plant that contains very young seeds and that is eaten as a vegetable — see also GREEN BEAN, POLE BEAN, SNAP BEAN, STRING BEAN, WAX BEAN **c** : a plant that produces beans ▪ We're growing tomatoes and *beans* in our garden this year.
2 : a seed that looks like a bean but that does not come from a climbing plant ▪ coffee *beans* ▪ cocoa *beans* ▪ a vanilla *bean* — see also JELLY BEAN, JUMPING BEAN
a hill of beans see HILL
full of beans *informal* **1** : full of energy and life ▪ We were young and *full of beans*. ▪ Although she's much older now, she's still *full of beans*. **2** *US* : not correct or truthful : full of nonsense ▪ If that's what he's been saying, then he's *full of beans*.
not know beans about *US, informal* : to not know anything about (something) ▪ He *doesn't know beans about* computers. [=he knows nothing about computers]
spill the beans *informal* : to reveal secret information ▪ I tried to get him to tell me what he knew, but he refused to *spill the beans*.

[2]bean *verb* **beans**; **beaned**; **bean•ing** [+ *obj*] *informal* : to hit (someone) on the head with something ▪ A kid in the back of the room *beaned* me with an eraser. [=threw an eraser that hit my head] ▪ (*baseball*) The pitcher almost *beaned* the first batter. [=he threw a pitch that almost hit the batter's head]

bean•bag /ˈbi:nˌbæg/ *noun, pl* **-bags** [*count*]
1 : a small cloth bag that is filled with dried beans or small pieces of another material and used as a toy
2 : a large bag that is filled with small round pieces of material and used as a soft chair ▪ a *beanbag* chair

bean counter *noun, pl* ~ **-ters** [*count*] *informal + disapproving* : a person who helps to run a business and who only cares about money ▪ He blames corporate *bean counters* for causing thousands of workers to lose their jobs.

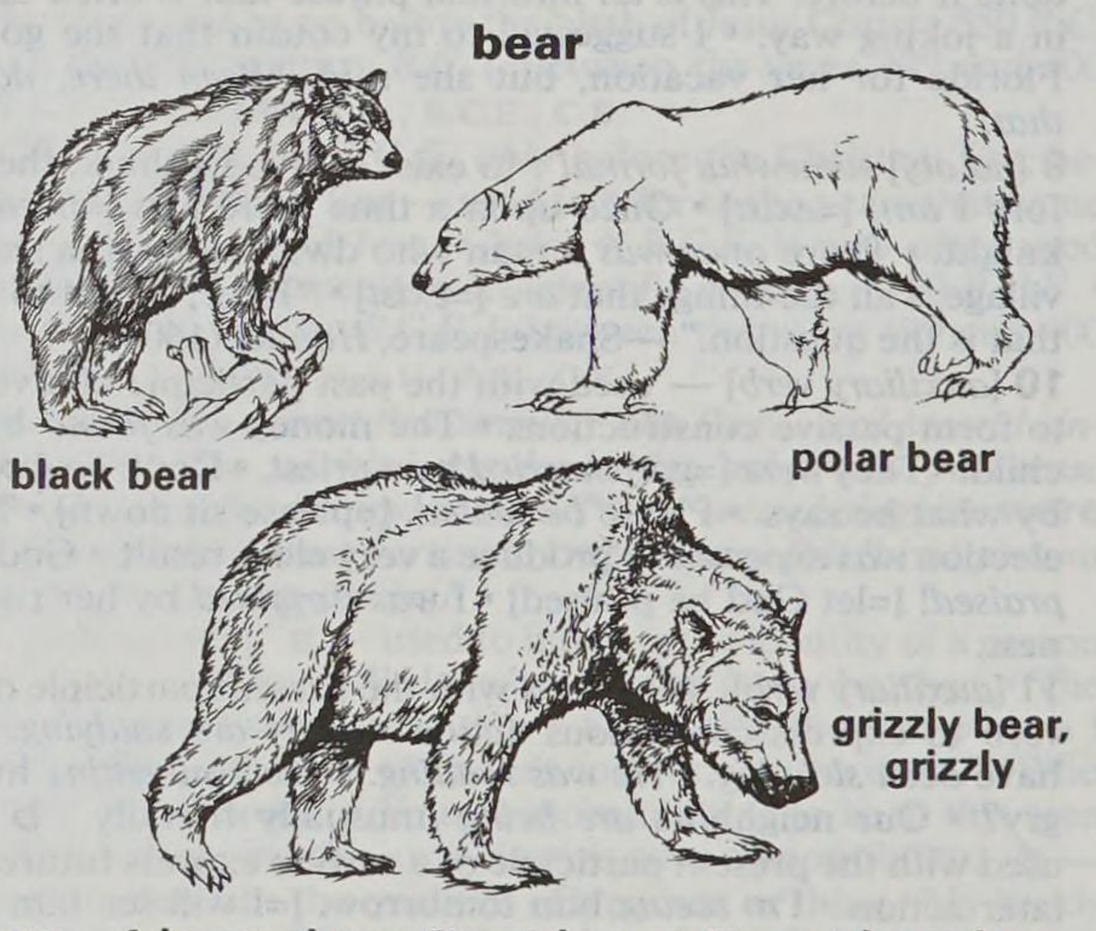
bean curd *noun* [*noncount*] : TOFU

bean•ie /ˈbi:ni/ *noun, pl* **-ies** [*count*] : a small, round, tight-fitting hat or cap

bean•pole /ˈbi:nˌpoʊl/ *noun, pl* **-poles** [*count*] *informal + humorous* : a tall and thin person

bean sprouts *noun* [*plural*] : very young plants that come from bean seeds and that are used as a vegetable

[1]bear /ˈbeɚ/ *noun, pl* **bear** *or* **bears** [*count*]
1 : any one of a group of large and heavy animals that have thick hair and sharp claws and that can stand on two legs like a person ▪ a mother *bear* and her cubs — sometimes used figuratively to describe a large man ▪ a tall, friendly *bear* of a man ▪ My father can be a grumpy old *bear* when he's tired. ✧ In informal British English, a person who becomes angry or annoyed very easily is ***(like) a bear with a sore head***. ▪ My father can be *like a bear with a sore head* when he's tired. — see also BLACK BEAR, GRIZZLY BEAR, POLAR BEAR, TEDDY BEAR
2 *finance* : a person who expects the price of stocks to go down and who sells them to avoid losing money ▪ The *bears* outnumbered the bulls on Wall Street today. — compare [1]BULL; see also BEAR MARKET
3 *US, informal* : something that is difficult to do or deal with ▪ This oven is a *bear* to clean. [=this oven is very hard to clean]
loaded for bear see LOADED



[2]bear *verb* **bears**; **bore** /ˈboɚ/; **borne** /ˈboɚn/; **bear•ing**
1 : to accept or endure (something) [+ *obj*] He *bore* [=*tolerated*] their insults patiently. — usually used in questions and negative statements with *can, can't, could*, and *couldn't* ▪ He *could* hardly *bear* [=*stand*] the pain. ▪ I *can't bear* cold weather. [=I strongly dislike cold weather] ▪ I *couldn't bear* the suspense. ▪ I *can't bear* it if/when people behave like that! ▪ I *can't bear* doing this. = I can't *bear* to do this. ▪ How *can* you *bear* to see him again after the way he's treated you? ▪ I couldn't *bear* you to get the wrong idea. ▪ I *couldn't bear* his behavior. = His behavior was ***more than I could bear***. ▪ I ***couldn't bear the thought/idea*** of moving again. [*no obj*] (*US*) — + *for* ▪ I couldn't *bear for* you to get the wrong idea.
2 [+ *obj*] : to be worthy of (something) : to deserve or allow (something) ▪ a joke too silly to *bear* repeating [=a joke that is too silly to be worth repeating] ▪ It's so horrible it doesn't

bear thinking about! [=it's so horrible that I don't want to think about it] ▪ a symphony that can *bear* comparison with Beethoven's best ▪ a plan that will not *bear* [=*withstand*] close scrutiny/examination ▪ suspicious behavior that ***bears watching*** [=that should be watched]

3 [+ *obj*] : to assume or accept (something, such as cost or responsibility) ▪ The company agreed to *bear* the costs/expenses. ▪ The criminals must *bear* full responsibility for the deaths of these innocent people. ▪ Who will *bear* the blame for this tragedy?

4 [+ *obj*] *somewhat formal + literary* : to move while holding up and supporting (something) : CARRY ▪ The demonstrators *bore* banners and sang songs. ▪ They arrived *bearing* gifts. ▪ The leaves were *borne* aloft/away by the wind. ▪ disease-*bearing* germs [=germs that carry and spread diseases] ▪ germ-*borne* diseases [=diseases that are carried and spread by germs] ▪ He believes that citizens should have the right to ***bear arms*** [=to carry weapons] ✧ If something is ***borne in on/upon*** you, it is made very clear to you. This is a formal phrase. ▪ It was *borne in on* us by the new evidence that prompt action was very important. [=the new evidence strongly indicated that prompt action was very important]

5 [+ *obj*] **a** : to have (something) as a feature or characteristic ▪ His leg was badly injured in the accident and it still *bears* [=*shows*] the scars/wounds/marks. ▪ His face *bears* marks/signs of suffering. ▪ Your conclusion *bears* [=*has*] no relation to the evidence. ▪ She ***bore a resemblance*** to her aunt. [=she looked like her aunt] **b** : to have a surface on which something is written, drawn, etc. ▪ The cornerstone *bears* a Latin inscription. ▪ a letter *bearing* the date of 1900 ▪ a shield *bearing* strange symbols **c** : to have (a name, price, etc.) ▪ He *bore* the name (of) John. ▪ The store sells imported goods *bearing* [=*having, with*] high prices. **d** : to have or hold (a feeling) in the mind ▪ She still *bears* a grudge against him. = She still *bears* him a grudge. ▪ She says she *bears* him no resentment for the way he treated her. ▪ I can't deny the love I still *bear* [=*feel*] for her.

6 [+ *obj*] **a** *formal* : to give birth to (a child) ▪ She has *borne* three children. ▪ She has *borne* her husband three children. **b** : to produce (something) ▪ a bank account that *bears* interest = an interest-*bearing* bank account ▪ a bush that *bears* red flowers ▪ trees that *bear* fruit — see also BEAR FRUIT (below)

7 [+ *obj*] : to support the weight of (something) ▪ How much weight is that wall able to *bear*?

8 [*no obj*] : to go, move, or turn in a specified direction ▪ *Bear* south. ▪ The road *bears* (to the) right. ▪ When you get to the fork in the road, you should *bear* [=*turn*] left.

Do not confuse *bear* with *bare*.

bear down [*phrasal verb*] *US* : to use all of your strength and effort to do something : to try very hard to do something ▪ The pitcher *bore down* and struck out the last batter. ▪ If we're going to finish on time, we really have to *bear down*.

bear down on [*phrasal verb*] **1 *bear down on (something)*** : to push or lean down on (something) ▪ The old man *bore down* heavily *on* his cane. ▪ She *bore down* hard *on* her pencil. **2 *bear down on (someone)*** : to place pressure on (someone) ▪ Don't let your problems *bear down* too hard *on* you. [=don't let your problems weigh you down] **3 *bear down on (someone or something)*** : to approach or move toward (something or someone) quickly and in a frightening or impressive way ▪ The enemy battleship *bore down on* us.

bear fruit : to produce a desired result or reward ▪ All his plans have finally *borne fruit*. [=all his plans have finally been realized] — see also ²BEAR 6b (above)

bear in mind see ¹MIND

bear on [*phrasal verb*] ***bear on (something)*** *formal* **1** : to have an effect on (something) ▪ Personal feelings did not *bear on* our decision. [=did not affect or influence our decision] **2** : to apply or relate to (something) ▪ What are the facts *bearing* directly *on* this matter?

bear out [*phrasal verb*] ***bear out (something or someone)*** *or* ***bear (something or someone) out*** : to show the correctness of (something or someone) ▪ The facts *bore out* [=*confirmed*] her story. [=the facts showed that her story was true] ▪ Research has fully *borne him out*. [=has shown that he was completely correct]

bear up [*phrasal verb*] : to not be overwhelmed during a time of trouble, pain, etc. ▪ She's been going through a tough time, but she's *bearing up* pretty well. — often + *under* ▪ She has found it hard to *bear up under* the strain.

bear with [*phrasal verb*] ***bear with (someone)*** : to be patient with (someone) ▪ I'll have that information for you soon. Just *bear with* me for another minute or two.

bear witness see ¹WITNESS

bear yourself *formal* : to move, stand, or behave in a specified way ▪ The soldier *bore himself* [=*carried himself*] stiffly upright. ▪ The soldier never failed to *bear himself* [=*conduct himself, behave*] courageously on the battlefield. ▪ He always *bore himself* [=*behaved*] like a gentleman.

bring (something) to bear : to cause (something) to have an effect or influence ▪ The company's new president *brings* 30 years of experience *to bear*. ▪ If we hope to resolve these issues, more resources must be *brought to bear*. — often used with *on* ▪ They will *bring* their considerable skills/talent/experience/knowledge *to bear on* the problem. ▪ The demonstrators will continue to ***bring pressure to bear on*** the government.

cross to bear see ¹CROSS

grin and bear it see GRIN

bear•able /ˈberəbəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : possible to bear : able to be accepted or endured ▪ He's in a great deal of pain, but the medication makes it *bearable*. — opposite UNBEARABLE

– **bear•abil•i•ty** /ˌberəˈbɪləti/ *noun* [*noncount*] – **bear•ably** /ˈberəbli/ *adv*

bear claw *noun, pl* ~ **claws** [*count*] *US* : a filled pastry shaped to look like a bear's foot

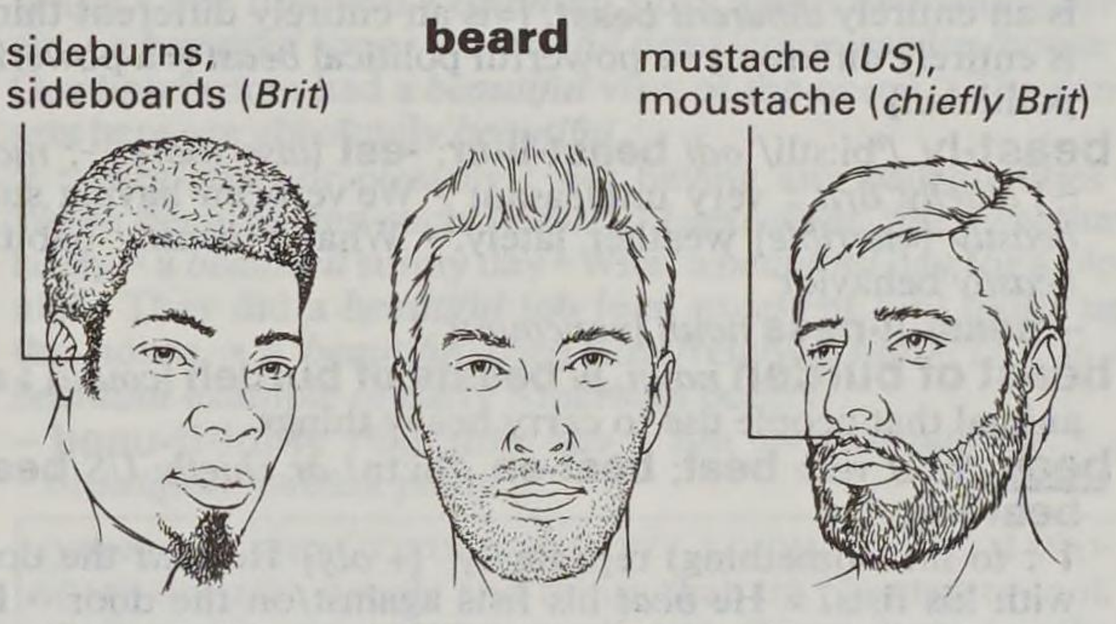
beard /ˈbiərd/ *noun, pl* **beards** [*count*]

1 : the hair that grows on a man's cheeks and chin ▪ He grew a *beard* and mustache.

2 : the long hair that grows on the chin of some animals ▪ the *beard* of a goat

– **beard•ed** /ˈbiərdəd/ *adj* ▪ a *bearded* college professor

beard



bear•er /ˈberə/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]

1 : a person who bears or carries something ▪ the *bearer* of a U.S. passport ▪ The *bearers* [=*porters*] carried our baggage up the mountain. ▪ the *bearer* of glad/bad tidings [=the person who brings good/bad news] ▪ His nephew was the ***ring bearer*** [=the person who holds the rings until they are needed] at his wedding. — see also PALLBEARER, STANDARD-BEARER, TORCHBEARER

2 *finance* : a person who has a check or order for payment ▪ The check was marked "payable to *bearer*."

bear hug *noun, pl* ~ **hugs** [*count*] : a strong and rough hug : an act of showing affection by putting your arms around someone and squeezing very tightly ▪ He gave his brother a *bear hug*.

bearing *noun, pl* **-ings**

1 [*singular*] *formal* : the way in which a person moves, stands, or behaves ▪ a man of military/dignified/regal *bearing*

2 *formal* : a relation or connection — + *on* [*singular*] These facts have a direct *bearing on* the question. [=these facts relate to the question in a direct way] [*noncount*] Personal feelings ***had no bearing on*** our decision. [=personal feelings did not affect or influence our decision]

3 [*count*] *technical* : a machine part in which another part turns or slides — see also BALL BEARING

4 [*count*] *technical* : a measurement taken with a compass that indicates the direction or position of something ▪ take/get a compass *bearing*

beyond bearing *or* ***past bearing*** *formal* : too painful, unpleasant, etc., to be accepted or endured ▪ a grief that is almost *past bearing* [=*unbearable*]

get/find your bearings : to find out your position ▪ Let's stop here and *find our bearings*. [=figure out exactly where we are] — often used figuratively ▪ Our course for new employees will help you *get/find your bearings* at work.

lose your bearings : to become lost ▪ The ship *lost its bearings* in the fog. — often used figuratively ▪ I feel I've *lost my bearings* in life. [=I have become confused about my life; I do not know what I am doing or what I want to do in my life]

bear•ish /ˈberɪʃ/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*]
1 : having qualities like a bear — used especially to describe a large man ▪ a grumpy, *bearish* old man
2 : expecting the price of stocks to go down ▪ *bearish* investors : characterized by falling stock prices ▪ The market has been *bearish* lately. — compare BULLISH
– **bear•ish•ly** *adv* – **bear•ish•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

bear market *noun, pl ~* **-kets** [*count*] *finance* : a market (such as a stock market) in which prices are going down — compare BULL MARKET

bear•skin /ˈbeɚˌskɪn/ *noun, pl* **-skins** [*count*]
1 : the skin and fur of a bear — often used before another noun ▪ a *bearskin* rug
2 : a tall, black fur hat worn in ceremonies by some British soldiers

beast /ˈbi:st/ *noun, pl* **beasts** [*count*]
1 *old-fashioned* : an animal ▪ dogs and other four-footed *beasts* ▪ wild *beasts* ▪ the birds and *beasts* of the forest ▪ a conflict between man and *beast* [=between human beings and animals]; *especially* : a wild animal that is large, dangerous, or unusual ▪ They were attacked by a savage *beast*. ▪ a story about a mythical/imaginary *beast* [=*creature*] with two heads
2 *old-fashioned* : an unkind or cruel person ▪ He's a cruel, hateful *beast*! ▪ her *beast* of a husband [=her husband who is a beast]
3 *informal* : a person or thing of a particular kind ▪ Reading modern English is one thing, but understanding Shakespeare is an entirely ***different beast***. [=is an entirely different thing; is entirely different] ▪ a powerful political *beast* [=a powerful politician]

beast•ly /ˈbi:stli/ *adj* **beast•li•er**; **-est** [*also more ~; most ~*] *chiefly Brit* : very unpleasant ▪ We've been having such *beastly* [=*terrible*] weather lately. ▪ What a *beastly* habit! ▪ *beastly* behavior
– **beast•li•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

beast of burden *noun, pl* **beasts of burden** [*count*] : an animal that people use to carry heavy things

[1]beat /ˈbi:t/ *verb* **beat**; **beat•en** /ˈbi:tn̩/ *or chiefly US* **beat**; **beat•ing**
1 : to hit (something) repeatedly [+ *obj*] He *beat* the door with his fists. = He *beat* his fists against/on the door. ▪ He *beat* the dusty rug with a stick. = He *beat* a stick against the dusty rug. ▪ He *beat* the dust out of the rug with a stick. ▪ She used a hammer to *beat* the metal into shape. ▪ She used a hammer to *beat* the nail into the wall. ▪ The dented metal was *beaten* flat. ▪ The waves were *beating* the shore. [*no obj*] He *beat* at/against/on the door with his fists. ▪ The waves were *beating* on/against the shore. ▪ The rain *beat* on the roof.
2 [+ *obj*] : to hit (someone) repeatedly in order to cause pain or injury ▪ They *beat* him with clubs. ▪ He was *beaten* badly/savagely/brutally. ▪ a man accused of *beating* his wife ▪ They *beat* him to the ground. [=they hit him repeatedly and he fell to the ground] ▪ They threatened to ***beat the (living) daylights out of*** him. [=to beat him very badly] ▪ He was ***beaten to death***. — see also BEATING, BEAT UP (below), BEAT UP ON (below)
3 : to hit (a drum) repeatedly in order to produce music or a signal [+ *obj*] The drummer kept *beating* his drum. ▪ the sound of a *beaten* drum ▪ They *beat* (out) a message on their drums. ▪ The drum kept *beating* (out) its rhythm. [*no obj*] The drummer kept *beating*. ▪ The drum kept *beating*. ▪ the sound of a *beating* drum — see also *beat the drum for* at [1]DRUM
4 *cooking* : to stir or mix (something) in a forceful way [+ *obj*] She used a whisk to *beat* the eggs. ▪ The recipe says you should *beat* the eggs lightly/thoroughly/well. ▪ Slowly *beat* the sugar into the batter. = Slowly *beat* in the sugar. = Slowly *beat* the sugar in. [*no obj*] Separate out the egg whites and *beat* until stiff.
5 : to move (wings) with an up and down motion [+ *obj*] The bird was *beating* [=*flapping*] its wings. [*no obj*] the sound of *beating* wings
6 [*no obj*] *of the heart* : to make the regular movements needed to pump blood ▪ My heart was *beating* wildly/frantically with excitement and my pulse was racing! ▪ (*humorous*) We get free doughnuts? ***Be still, my beating heart***!
7 [+ *obj*] **a** : to defeat (someone) in a game, contest, etc. ▪ He gets very angry when I *beat* him at chess. ▪ We *beat* them 14 to 3. ▪ Our team was badly *beaten* in the championship game. ▪ She was narrowly *beaten* in the previous election, but she won this time. ▪ We *beat* them soundly/convincingly/comfortably/easily/badly. = (*US*) We ***beat the pants off*** them. ▪ They tried to lure away our customers by offering deep discounts, but we ***beat them at their own game***. [=we offered even deeper discounts than they did] ✧ People say ***if you can't beat them, join them*** or ***if you can't beat 'em, join 'em*** when they decide to do what other people are doing and to stop opposing them. **b** : to do better than (something) ▪ She managed to *beat* the old record by several seconds. ▪ We can still *beat* the deadline if we work quickly. ▪ His wonderful performance will be ***hard/tough to beat***. = His wonderful performance will ***take some beating***. [=it will be difficult for anyone to do better than his wonderful performance] ▪ Most new restaurants fail, but this one somehow managed to ***beat the odds***. [=this one succeeded even though it did not have a good chance of succeeding] ✧ People say ***can you beat that?*** when they are surprised or angry about something. ▪ *Can you beat that*?! A person like him being elected mayor! [=it is surprising or ridiculous to think that a person like him has been elected mayor] **c** *not used in progressive tenses* : to be better than (something) ▪ For sheer luxury ***you can't beat*** a nice hot bath. = For sheer luxury, ***nothing beats*** a nice hot bath. = For sheer luxury, a nice hot bath ***beats anything***. **d** : to control or overcome (something) ▪ By working together we can *beat* crime! ▪ (*US*) His favorite way of ***beating the heat*** [=remaining cool in hot weather] is to have a couple of cold beers. **e** : to be too difficult for (someone) ▪ This problem has *beaten* everyone. [=no one has been able to solve this problem] ✧ The informal expression ***(it) beats me*** means "I don't know." ▪ "How did she manage to fix the problem so quickly?" "*Beats me*." ▪ I don't believe anything he tells me. *It beats me* how people can continue to trust him.
8 [+ *obj*] **a** : to come, arrive, or act before (someone or something) ▪ I *beat* him narrowly to the finish line. [=I reached the finish line slightly before he did] ▪ I bet I can *beat* you to the front door! ▪ I wondered which of us would finish our work first, but she ***beat me to it*** by two days. [=she finished two days before I did] **b** : to avoid having problems with (something) by acting earlier ▪ We left early so that we could ***beat the traffic***. ▪ We got to the store when it opened and managed to ***beat the rush***.

beat a dead horse see [1]HORSE

beat a path : to make (a path) by walking over the ground many times ▪ They *beat a path* through the woods to the stream. — sometimes used figuratively ▪ If you work hard and well, success will ***beat a path to your door***. [=you will be very successful]

beat a retreat : to leave quickly ▪ A group of teenagers was causing trouble, but they ***beat a hasty retreat*** when the cops arrived.

beat around/about the bush see BUSH

beat back [*phrasal verb*] ***beat back (someone) or beat (someone) back*** : to force (someone) to go back or to retreat by fighting ▪ Our troops were *beaten back* by enemy forces.

beat down [*phrasal verb*] **1** *of the sun* : to shine down with great heat and strength ▪ The blazing sun was *beating down* on us mercilessly/relentlessly. **2** ***beat (something) down or beat down (something)*** : to hit (something, such as a door) so that it falls down ▪ The police had to *beat down* the door to get into the house. ▪ The storm *beat down* the crops. — often used figuratively ▪ Years of failure had *beaten* him *down*. [=had caused him to lose hope or spirit] **3** *chiefly Brit* **a** ***beat (someone) down or beat down (someone)*** : to cause (someone) to lower a price ▪ I *beat* her *down* from £30 to £15. **b** ***beat (a price) down or beat down (a price)*** : to cause someone to lower (a price) ▪ I *beat* her asking price *down* from £30 to £15.

beat it *informal* : to go away quickly ▪ The teenagers *beat it* when the cops arrived. — often used as a command ▪ Stop bothering me. *Beat it*! [=*get lost*]

beat off [*phrasal verb*] **1** ***beat off (someone or something) or beat (someone or something) off*** : to force (someone or something) to go away by fighting ▪ She managed to *beat off* her attacker. — sometimes used figuratively ▪ The company has managed to *beat off* [=*fight off*] its competitors and maintain control of the market. **2** *US, informal + impolite, of a man* : MASTURBATE

beat out [*phrasal verb*] **1** ***beat out (something) or beat (something) out*** **a** : to put out (a fire) by beating ▪ The fire was raging but we managed to *beat* it *out*. **b** *baseball*

: to turn (a ground ball) into a base hit by running fast to first base ▪ He *beat out* a bunt. **2 *beat out (someone or something)*** *or* ***beat (someone or something) out*** *US* : to defeat or overcome (a person, team, etc.) ▪ They were *beaten out* [=*beaten*] in the semifinals. ▪ She thought she would get the job, but someone else *beat* her *out*. [=someone else got the job]

beat someone to the punch see ²PUNCH

beat the clock see ¹CLOCK

beat the rap see ¹RAP

beat up [*phrasal verb*] ***beat up (someone)*** *or* ***beat (someone) up*** : to hurt or injure (someone) by hitting ▪ A gang of bullies threatened to *beat* him *up*. ▪ He was *beaten up* badly by the bullies. — sometimes used figuratively ▪ a politician who is getting *beat/beaten up* by liberal/conservative critics ▪ He's been ***beating himself up*** [=he has been harshly blaming or criticizing himself] because of the failure of his marriage. — see also BEAT-UP

beat up on [*phrasal verb*] ***beat up on (someone)*** *US, informal* : to hit (someone) repeatedly in order to cause pain or injury : to beat (someone) ▪ A gang of bullies was *beating up on* him. — sometimes used figuratively ▪ a politician who is getting *beat up on* by his critics

to beat the band see ¹BAND

– beat•able /ˈbi:təbəl/ *adj* ▪ an easily *beatable* opponent [=an opponent that can be easily defeated]

²beat *noun, pl* **beats**

1 a [*count*] : the act of beating ▪ a single *beat* on a drum ▪ a *beat* of the bird's wings ▪ a single *beat* of his heart [=a single heartbeat] — see also *heart skipped a beat* at HEART **b** [*singular*] : a sound produced by beating ▪ We could hear the steady *beat* of the waves against the shore. ▪ They danced to the *beat* of the drums. ▪ listening to the *beat* of his heart

2 a [*count*] : a loud or strong sound that occurs regularly in music or poetry ▪ music that has four *beats* to a bar — see also DOWNBEAT **b** [*singular*] : the regular pattern of sounds in music or poetry : RHYTHM ▪ She likes music with a Latin *beat*. ▪ a pounding *beat* ▪ The music had a steady *beat*.

3 [*count*] : a place or area that someone (such as a policeman) regularly goes to, walks through, or covers as part of a job — usually singular ▪ The policeman was patrolling/pounding his/the *beat*. = The policeman was on his/the *beat*. ▪ a reporter's *beat*

miss a beat *chiefly US* : to have difficulty in continuing : to stop or hesitate briefly ▪ He answered their questions ***without missing a beat*** [=he answered all their questions very easily and without hesitating] ▪ He answered all their questions and ***never missed a beat*** ▪ He ***didn't miss a beat***

³beat *adj, not used before a noun, informal* : very tired : EXHAUSTED ▪ Let me sit down. I'm absolutely *beat*!

beat•en /ˈbi:tn/ *adj, always used before a noun*

1 : formed into a desired shape by being hit with a hammer ▪ *beaten* gold

2 *of a path, trail, etc.* : made smooth : walked on by many people ▪ a *beaten* path

3 : having lost all hope or spirit ▪ A failure at 50, he was a *beaten* [=*defeated*] man.

off the beaten track *or US* ***off the beaten path*** : in or to a place that is not close to the places where people usually go ▪ The restaurant is a little *off the beaten track*, so it won't be crowded.

beat•er /ˈbi:tɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]

1 : a device or tool that is used for beating something ▪ a carpet *beater* — see also EGGBEATER, WORLD-BEATER

2 : someone who repeatedly hits another person ▪ He is accused of being a wife *beater*. [=a man who beats his wife] ▪ a child *beater*

3 *US, informal* : an old car that is in poor condition ▪ driving a rusty old *beater*

be•atif•ic /ˌbi:jəˈtɪfɪk/ *adj, formal* : showing complete happiness ▪ a *beatific* [=*blissful*] smile

be•at•i•fy /biˈætəˌfaɪ/ *verb* **-fies**; **-fied**; **-fy•ing** [+ *obj*] *in the Roman Catholic Church* : to give a dead person a title of honor for being very good and holy ▪ She was *beatified* by the Pope one hundred years after her death.

– be•at•i•fi•ca•tion /biˌætəfəˈkeɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*]

beat•ing /ˈbi:tɪŋ/ *noun, pl* **-ings** [*count*] : the act of repeatedly hitting someone to cause pain or injury : the act of beating someone ▪ He threatened to give the boys a (good) *beating* for stealing the apples. — often used figuratively ▪ Our plans took a real *beating* from the review committee. [=the review committee strongly criticized our plans] ▪ The reporters gave the politician quite a *beating* with all their hostile questions. ▪ Many investors took quite a (bad) *beating* [=lost a lot of money] when the stock market crashed.

beat•nik /ˈbi:tˌnɪk/ *noun, pl* **-niks** [*count*] : a young person who was part of a social group in the 1950s and early 1960s that rejected the traditional rules of society and encouraged people to express themselves through art

beat–up /ˈbi:tˌʌp/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *informal* : old and badly worn or damaged ▪ a *beat-up* old car — see also *beat up* at ¹BEAT

beau /ˈboʊ/ *noun, pl* **beaux** /ˈboʊz/ *or* **beaus** [*count*] *old-fashioned* : a woman's male lover or friend : BOYFRIEND ▪ She introduced us to her latest *beau*.

¹beaut /ˈbju:t/ *noun, pl* **beauts** [*count*] *US + Australia + New Zealand, informal* : a very good or attractive thing or person ▪ He just bought a new car—it's a real *beaut*. [=*beauty*] — often used in an ironic way to describe a bad thing or person ▪ You've told lies before, but this one's a *beaut*. [=a very bad lie] ▪ My boss is a real *beaut*—he complains about everything but never does any work himself.

²beaut *adj, Australia + New Zealand, informal* : excellent or beautiful ▪ That new car of yours is *beaut*! ▪ a *beaut* car

beau•te•ous /ˈbju:tijəs/ *adj, literary* : BEAUTIFUL ▪ a *beauteous* evening

beau•ti•cian /bjuˈtɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-cians** [*count*] : a person whose job is to give beauty treatments to women by washing and cutting hair, applying makeup, etc. — called also (*US*) *cosmetologist*

beau•ti•ful /ˈbju:tɪfəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

1 : having beauty: such as **a** : very attractive in a physical way ▪ a *beautiful* young woman/child ▪ You have the most *beautiful* smile/eyes. **b** : giving pleasure to the mind or the senses ▪ The film tells a *beautiful* story about two young lovers. ▪ a *beautiful* song ▪ a *beautiful* dress/color/garden/house ▪ Our hotel room had a *beautiful* view of the ocean. ▪ The sunsets here are absolutely *beautiful*.

2 : very good or pleasing : not having any bad qualities ▪ We've been having such *beautiful* [=*excellent*, *fine*] weather lately. ▪ a *beautiful* sunny day ▪ What a *beautiful* day for a picnic! ▪ They did a *beautiful* job [=an excellent job] fixing up the house. ▪ a *beautiful* friendship/relationship ▪ This is a *beautiful* example of early American poetry.

– beau•ti•ful•ly /ˈbju:tɪfli/ *adv* ▪ You sang *beautifully*. ▪ a *beautifully* written poem

synonyms BEAUTIFUL, PRETTY, LOVELY, and HANDSOME describe people and things that are pleasing to look at, hear, etc. BEAUTIFUL applies to things that give the greatest pleasure and cause people to feel strong emotions. ▪ *beautiful* sunsets ▪ a *beautiful* poem When used of a person, it usually describes a woman, girl, or small child. ▪ She's the most *beautiful* woman I've ever met. ▪ Their son was a *beautiful* baby. PRETTY often applies to small things that are attractive in a delicate way. ▪ a *pretty* little dress with pink ribbons ▪ He paints *pretty* pictures and sells them on the street. When used of a person, it almost always describes a woman or girl. ▪ their *pretty* daughter ▪ She looked very *pretty* in her new dress. LOVELY applies to things that make people feel strong emotions by being very graceful or delicate. ▪ a *lovely* melody When used to describe a person's appearance, it almost always refers to a woman or girl. ▪ They have two *lovely* daughters. It can also describe a person's character, and in this use it refers to both women and men. ▪ My uncle is a *lovely* man. [=a very good man] HANDSOME applies to things that are attractive because they have a balanced design or shape. ▪ a *handsome* house surrounded by gardens ▪ She wore a *handsome* gray suit to the office. When used to describe a person, it usually refers to a man or boy. ▪ their *handsome* son ▪ a very *handsome* actor ▪ He has a strong, *handsome* face. A woman who is described as *handsome* is attractive but usually not in a very delicate or feminine way.

beau•ti•fy /ˈbju:təˌfaɪ/ *verb* **-fies**; **-fied**; **-fy•ing** [+ *obj*] : to make (something) beautiful or more beautiful ▪ Fresh flowers *beautify* every room.

– beau•ti•fi•ca•tion /ˌbju:təfəˈkeɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the *beautification* of the city

beau•ty /ˈbju:ti/ *noun, pl* **-ties**

1 [*noncount*] : the quality of being physically attractive ▪ Her *beauty* is beyond compare. [=she is very beautiful; no one is as beautiful as she is] — sometimes used before another noun ▪ *beauty* products [=soaps, makeup, and other things

that help make people more physically attractive] ▪ a *beauty* treatment

2 : the qualities in a person or a thing that give pleasure to the senses or the mind [*noncount*] the *beauty* [=*loveliness*] of the stars ▪ We explored the natural *beauty* of the island. ▪ I'm learning to appreciate the *beauty* of poetry. ▪ We have different ideas/notions/conceptions of *beauty*. [=different opinions about what makes things beautiful] ▪ "A thing of *beauty* is a joy for ever . . ." —John Keats, *Endymion* (1818) [*plural*] We explored the natural *beauties* of the island.

3 [*count*] : a beautiful woman ▪ She was one of the great *beauties* of her time. ▪ She was no *beauty*.

4 [*count*] *informal* : a very good thing : a very good example of something ▪ That was a *beauty* of a fight. [=that was an excellent fight] ▪ Dad and I went fishing and we caught a couple of *beauties*. — often used in an ironic way to describe a bad thing or person ▪ That mistake was a *beauty*.

5 : a good or appealing part of something [*noncount*] The *beauty* of the game is that everyone can play. ▪ No one knows when it's going to happen, and that's the *beauty* of it! [*count*] One of the *beauties* of the system is that it allows you to adjust the schedule easily.

beauty contest *noun, pl* ~ **-tests** [*count*] : a contest in which people judge a group of women or girls and decide which one is the most beautiful — called also *beauty pageant*

beauty mark *noun, pl* ~ **marks** [*count*] *US* : BEAUTY SPOT 1

beauty part *noun*

the beauty part *US, informal* : the best or most appealing part of something ▪ There's plenty of food, and *the beauty part* is that it's all free!

beauty queen *noun, pl* ~ **queens** [*count*] : a woman or girl who is a winner of a beauty contest — sometimes used figuratively ▪ She's fairly good-looking, but she's no *beauty queen*. [=she's not beautiful]

beauty salon *noun, pl* ~ **-lons** [*count*] : a shop where women get beauty treatments (such as haircuts) to make them more attractive — called also *beauty parlor, beauty shop*

beauty spot *noun, pl* ~ **spots** [*count*]

1 : a small dark mark (such as a mole) on a woman's face — called also (*US*) *beauty mark*

2 *Brit* : a beautiful place ▪ a famous *beauty spot* by a mountain lake

[1]bea•ver /'bi:vɚ/ *noun, pl* **beaver** *or* **bea•vers**

1 [*count*] : a small animal that has thick, brown fur and a wide, flat tail, that cuts down trees with its teeth, and that builds dams and underwater houses with mud and branches — often used before another noun ▪ a *beaver* dam [=a dam built by beavers] ▪ *beaver* ponds ▪ *beaver* skins/pelts — see picture at RODENT

2 [*noncount*] : the fur of a beaver ▪ a coat made of *beaver* — often used before another noun ▪ a *beaver* coat ▪ a *beaver* hat — see also EAGER BEAVER

[2]beaver *verb* **-vers**; **-vered**; **-ver•ing**

beaver away [*phrasal verb*] *informal* : to work in a very active and energetic way ▪ They've been *beavering away* for hours. — often + *at* ▪ They're still *beavering away at* the problem.

be•bop /'bi:ˌbɑ:p/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a fast and complex type of jazz music : BOP

be•calmed /bi'kɑ:md/ *adj, of a boat or ship* : not able to move because there is no wind ▪ The ship was *becalmed* for nearly two days.

became *past tense of* BECOME

be•cause /bɪ'kɑ:z, bɪ'kʌz/ *conj* : for the reason that ▪ I ran *because* I was afraid. ▪ We were late *because* our car wouldn't start. = *Because* our car wouldn't start, we were late. ▪ "Why did you do it?" "*Because* she told me to."

because of : for the reason of ▪ The picnic has been canceled *because of* [=*due to, on account of*] bad weather. ▪ *Because of* this [=for this reason], only very rich people can afford to live on the island. ▪ *Because of* you, we missed the bus. [=you caused us to miss the bus] ▪ The accident happened *because of* [=*through*] carelessness.

just because : for the simple or single reason that ▪ Don't get nervous *just because* the teacher might ask you a question. ▪ We can't assume it will rain today *just because* it rained yesterday. ▪ *Just because* your friends do it, that doesn't mean that you should do it, too.

[1]beck /'bɛk/ *noun*

at someone's beck and call *or* ***at the beck and call of someone*** : always ready to do whatever someone asks ▪ He expects his employees to be *at his beck and call* day and night. ▪ She is *at the beck and call of* the committee.

– compare [2]BECK

[2]beck *noun, pl* **becks** [*count*] *Brit* : [2]BROOK — compare [1]BECK

beck•on /'bɛkən/ *verb* **-ons**; **-oned**; **-on•ing**

1 : to signal (someone) with your arm or hand in order to tell that person to come closer or follow [+ *obj*] She was *beckoning* them in to shore. ▪ He *beckoned* them over (to where he was). ▪ She *beckoned* the waiter to come over. [*no obj*] She *beckoned* to the waiter to come over.

2 a [*no obj*] : to appear attractive or inviting ▪ From the time he was a child, the wilderness *beckoned* to him. ▪ New adventures were *beckoning*. ▪ a *beckoning* smile **b** [+ *obj*] : to attract (someone or something) ▪ The nature preserve *beckons* bird-watchers, who visit from around the world.

– **beck•on•ing•ly** *adv* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ She smiled *beckoningly*.

be•come /bɪ'kʌm/ *verb* **-comes**; **-came** /-'keɪm/; **-come**; **-com•ing**

1 [*linking verb*] : to begin to be or come to be something specified ▪ Although I've known him for years, we didn't *become* close friends until recently. ▪ She won the election, *becoming* the first woman to be President of the nation. ▪ They both *became* teachers. : to begin to have a specified quality ▪ The book has *become* quite popular. ▪ We *became* interested in the property last year. ▪ The crackers had *become* stale. ▪ It's *becoming* [=*getting*] quite cold in the evenings. ▪ It eventually *became* clear that he had lied. ▪ She's *become* [=*gotten*] somewhat cynical.

2 [+ *obj*] *formal* **a** *not used in progressive tenses* : to look attractive on (someone) : to be flattering to (someone) ▪ That dress *becomes* you. **b** : to be suitable for (someone) : to be proper for (someone) ▪ Though poor, he carried himself with a dignity *becoming* [=*befitting*] a king. ▪ This kind of behavior hardly *becomes* a person of your age and position.

become of : to happen to ▪ Whatever *became of* our old friend? I haven't heard from her in years. ▪ I don't know what *became of* my keys. I can't find them anywhere.

be•com•ing /bɪ'kʌmɪŋ/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *formal*

1 : causing someone to look attractive : having a flattering or attractive effect ▪ That jacket is very *becoming* on you. ▪ She's had her hair cut in a *becoming* new style.

2 : suitable or appropriate for a particular person or in a certain situation ▪ She accepted the award with a *becoming* humility. — opposite UNBECOMING

– **be•com•ing•ly** *adv* ▪ *becomingly* dressed

[1]bed /'bɛd/ *noun, pl* **beds**

1 a : a piece of furniture that people sleep on [*count*] The room contains only a *bed* and a dresser. ▪ There are two *beds* in the hotel room. ▪ a hospital *bed* ▪ a single *bed* [=a bed for one person] ▪ a double *bed* [=a bed for two people] ▪ He lay ***on the bed*** [=on top of the sheets, blankets, and bedspread] for a long time. ▪ Don't forget to ***make the bed***. [=to neatly arrange the sheets, blankets, and bedspread on the bed so that the mattress is covered] ▪ He became ill and ***took to his bed***. [=he went to lie in bed for a long time] [*noncount*] She usually ***goes to bed*** [=lies down in her bed to sleep] around 11:00. ▪ It's time to ***get out of bed***. [=*get up*] ▪ He lay/stayed ***in bed*** all morning. ▪ The kids like to hear a story ***before bed***. [=before they go to sleep] ▪ Have you ***put the children to bed***? [=have you prepared the children to go to sleep and put them in their beds?] ▪ Come on, children. It's ***time for bed***. [=*bedtime, time to sleep*] **b** [*count*] : something that is used to sleep on ▪ The blanket by the fireplace is the dog's *bed*. ▪ Her *bed* was a mound of soft pine needles. — see also DEATHBED, SICKBED, SUNBED, WATER BED

2 — used in phrases that describe having sexual relations ✧ Someone who is ***good in bed*** is a skillful lover. When two people are ***in bed***, they are in the act of having sex. ▪ She caught her husband and his secretary *in bed* together. = She caught her husband *in bed* with his secretary. To ***go to bed with*** someone is to have sex with someone. ▪ She likes him as a friend, but she's not interested in *going to bed with* him. To ***get someone into bed*** is to get someone to have sex with you. ▪ He has fantasies about *getting a fashion model into bed*. Phrases like these are also used figuratively. ▪ a politician who is accused of being ***in bed with*** the oil industry [=of having an improperly close relationship with the oil industry] ▪ The Communists and the Fascists *got into bed with* each other [=*joined forces*] to keep the liberals out of power.

3 [*count*] : a small area of ground specially prepared for plants ▪ I'm planning on putting a *bed* of perennials in that corner of the yard. ▪ a *bed* of flowers — see also BED OF ROSES, FLOWER BED, SEEDBED

4 [*count*] **a** : a flat pile or layer of something ▪ a *bed* of coals **b** : a flat pile or layer of food that is placed on a dish with other food on top of it ▪ grilled fish served on a *bed* of greens ▪ a *bed* of rice

5 [*count*] **a** : the ground that is at the bottom of a sea, lake, etc. ▪ seaweed growing on the ocean *bed* [=*floor*] **b** : an area of shallow water where something grows ▪ an oyster *bed* [=an area where there are many oysters] — see also RIVERBED, SEABED

6 [*count*] *technical* : a layer of rock or some other material from inside the earth ▪ fossil *beds* ▪ a *bed* of shale

7 [*count*] : the platform or box in the back of some kinds of trucks ▪ the *bed* of the truck ▪ We loaded the equipment and put a cover over the truck *bed*. — see also FLATBED

die in (your) bed see [1]DIE

get up on the wrong side of the bed (*US*) *or chiefly Brit* ***get out of bed on the wrong side*** : to be in a bad mood throughout the day ▪ Be careful when you talk to the boss. He *got up on the wrong side of the bed* this morning.

make your bed and lie in it ✧ Expressions like *you've made your bed, and now you must lie in it* mean that you have done something that causes problems and now you must accept and deal with those problems. ▪ There's nothing we can do to help her. *She's made her bed and has to lie in it.*

marriage bed : a bed that married people share — sometimes used figuratively to refer to marriage in general or to the sexual relations that married people have ▪ the sorrows of their *marriage bed*

[2]bed *verb* **beds**; **bed•ded**; **bed•ding** [+ *obj*]

1 *informal* + *old-fashioned* : to have sex with (someone) ▪ He has fantasies about *bedding* a fashion model.

2 : to place (food) on a pile or layer of something else — usually used as *(be) bedded* ▪ a mixture of scallops and lobster *bedded* on rice

bed down [*phrasal verb*] **1** : to lie down somewhere for sleep ▪ There were so many people that some of us had to *bed down* in the living room. **2** ***bed (someone or something) down*** *or* ***bed down (someone or something)*** : to provide (a person or animal) with a place to sleep ▪ They *bedded us down* in the living room. ▪ When the animals had been fed and *bedded down*, we went inside to eat dinner.

bed and board *noun* [*noncount*] *chiefly Brit* : food and a place to sleep ▪ They provide *bed and board* [=*room and board*] for travellers.

bed–and–breakfast *noun, pl* **-fasts**

1 [*count*] : a house or small hotel in which someone can rent a room to sleep in for a price that includes breakfast the next morning ▪ We stayed the night at a nice *bed-and-breakfast* near the beach. — called also *B and B*

2 [*noncount*] *chiefly Brit* : a service in which the price of a room also includes breakfast the next morning ▪ a small hotel that offers *bed-and-breakfast* — called also *B and B*

be•daz•zle /bɪˈdæzəl/ *verb* **-daz•zles**; **-daz•zled**; **-daz•zling** [+ *obj*] : to thrill or excite (someone) very much ▪ fans *bedazzled* by movie stars

– **be•daz•zle•ment** /bɪˈdæzəlmənt/ *noun* [*noncount*]

bed•bug /ˈbɛdˌbʌg/ *noun, pl* **-bugs** [*count*] : a very small insect that lives in dirty beds and that bites people and sucks their blood

bed•cham•ber /ˈbɛdˌʧeɪmbɚ/ *noun, pl* **-bers** [*count*] *literary* : BEDROOM ▪ The queen was in her *bedchamber*.

bed•clothes /ˈbɛdˌkloʊz/ *noun* [*plural*] : [1]BEDDING 1

bed•cov•er /ˈbɛdˌkʌvɚ/ *noun, pl* **-cov•ers**

1 [*count*] : BEDSPREAD

2 ***bedcovers*** [*plural*] : [1]BEDDING 1

[1]bed•ding /ˈbɛdɪŋ/ *noun* [*noncount*]

1 : the sheets and blankets that are used on a bed

2 : something used for an animal's bed ▪ Wash your cat's *bedding* regularly. ▪ straw *bedding*

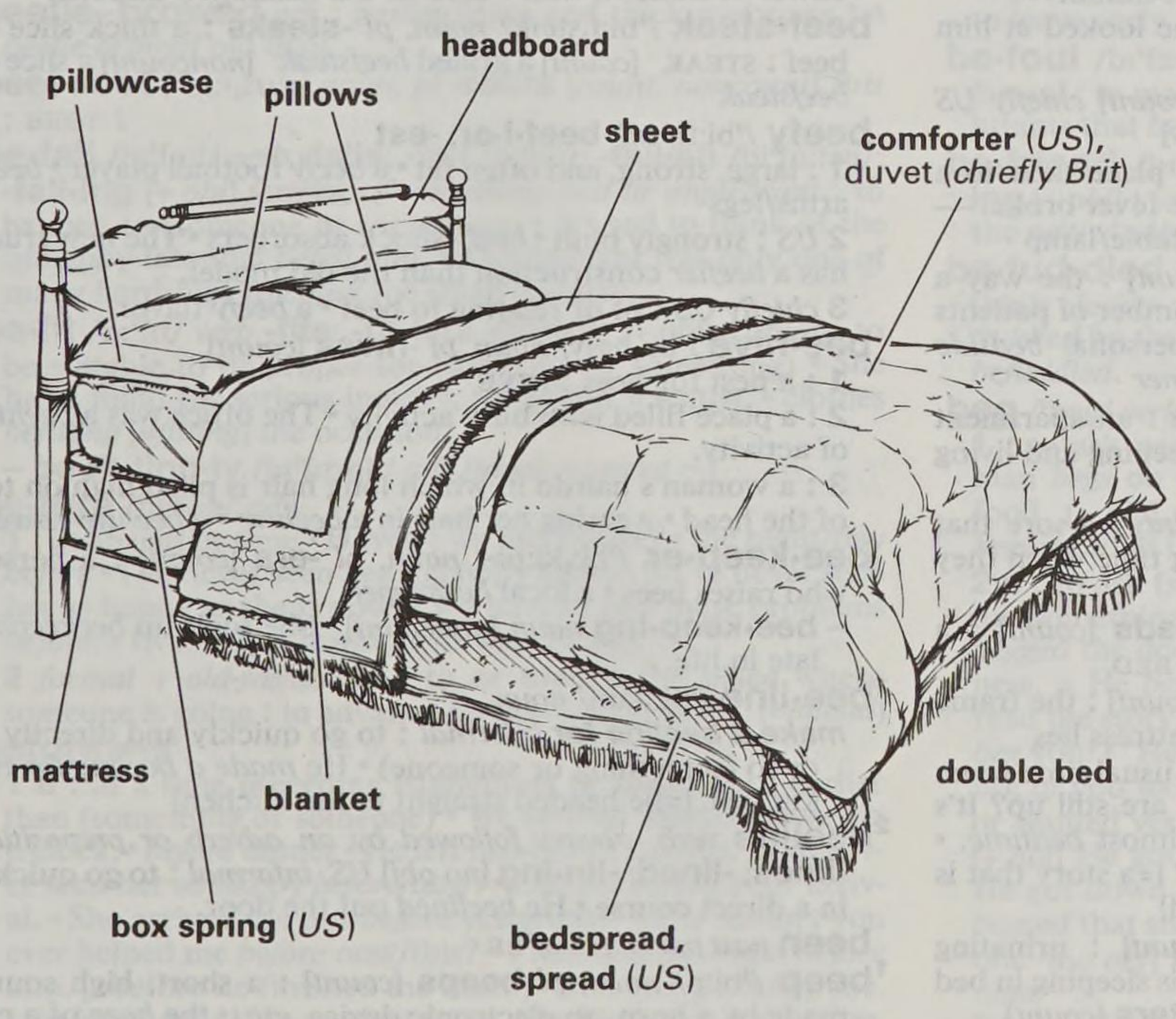
[2]bedding *adj, always used before a noun* : suitable for being planted in large groups in a flower bed ▪ The flower makes an excellent ***bedding plant***.

be•deck /bɪˈdɛk/ *verb* **-decks**; **-decked**; **-deck•ing** [+ *obj*] : to decorate (someone or something) with things : to add decorative things to (something or someone) — usually used as *(be) bedecked* ▪ She *was bedecked* in gold and jewels. ▪ The hall *was bedecked* [=*decked*] with flowers.

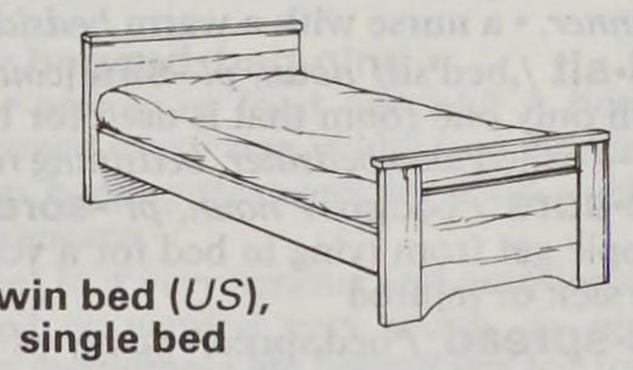
be•dev•il /bɪˈdɛvəl/ *verb* **-ils**; *US* **-iled** *or Brit* **-illed**; *US* **-il•ing** *or Brit* **-il•ling** [+ *obj*] : to trouble (someone or something) in a constant or repeated way : to cause repeated problems for (someone or something) ▪ The theory *bedevils* scientists, none of whom have been able to prove it true or false. ▪ The project has been *bedeviled* by problems since its inception.

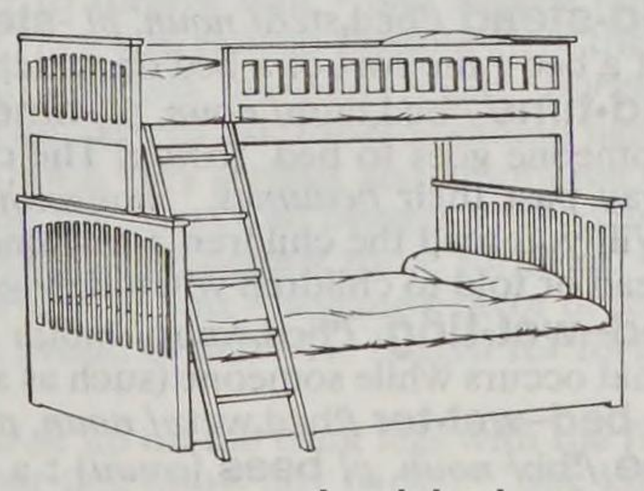
bed•fel•low /ˈbɛdˌfɛloʊ/ *noun, pl* **-lows** [*count*] : a person or thing that is associated or connected with another — used in phrases like ***strange bedfellows*** to describe people and things that are grouped or working together in a way that seems unlikely, unexpected, etc. ▪ Politics makes *strange bedfellows*. [=people who are very different sometimes work together for political reasons]

bed




sofa bed


twin bed (*US*), single bed


bunk bed

bed•head /ˈbɛdˌhɛd/ *noun, pl* **-heads** [*count*] *Brit* : HEADBOARD

bed•lam /ˈbɛdləm/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a very noisy and confused state or scene ▪ The park had never had so many visitors at one time. It was total/complete *bedlam*.

bed linens *noun* [*plural*] *chiefly US* : sheets and pillowcases for a bed — called also (*chiefly Brit*) *bed linen*

bed of roses *noun* [*singular*] : a place or situation that is pleasant or easy — usually used in negative statements ▪ Grandfather liked to remind people not to expect things to be easy. "Life's no *bed of roses*," he'd say.

Bed•ou•in /ˈbɛdəwən/ *noun, pl* **Bedouin** *or* **Bed•ou•ins** [*count*] : a member of an Arab tribe whose people live in the desert in tents

bed•pan /ˈbɛdˌpæn/ *noun, pl* **-pans** [*count*] : a shallow pan used as a toilet by a person who is too ill to get out of bed — see picture at HOSPITAL

bed•post /ˈbɛdˌpoʊst/ *noun, pl* **-posts** [*count*] : any one of the four main supporting posts at each corner of an old-fashioned bed

be•drag•gled /bɪˈdrægəld/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : wet or dirty from being in rain or mud ▪ a *bedraggled* hitchhiker ▪ She was *bedraggled* and exhausted.

bed rest *noun* [*noncount*] : rest while lying in a bed ▪ The doctor prescribed *bed rest* for a month.

bed•rid•den /ˈbɛdˌrɪdn̩/ *adj* : forced to stay in bed because of illness or weakness ▪ *bedridden* patients

bed•rock /ˈbɛdˌrɑːk/ *noun* [*noncount*]
1 : the solid rock that lies under the surface of the ground ▪ They dug down for 10 feet before they hit *bedrock*.
2 : a strong idea, principle, or fact that supports something ▪ His religious beliefs are/form the *bedrock* on which his life is based. — often used before another noun ▪ *bedrock* beliefs/values

bed•roll /ˈbɛdˌroʊl/ *noun, pl* **-rolls** [*count*] *US* : bedding materials that are rolled together so that they can be carried from one place to another

[1]bed•room /ˈbɛdˌruːm/ *noun, pl* **-rooms** [*count*] : a room used for sleeping ▪ a house with three *bedrooms* = a 3-*bedroom* house ▪ a spare/guest *bedroom* ▪ a large ***master bedroom*** [=a large bedroom that is the main bedroom in a house]
– **bedroomed** *adj, Brit* — used in combination ▪ a three-*bedroomed* house

[2]bedroom *adj, always used before a noun*
1 *US* : lived in by people who go to another town or city to work ▪ They live in a ***bedroom community*** [=(*Brit*) *dormitory town*] just outside of the city.
2 : dealing with sexual relationships ▪ The play is a *bedroom* farce about a middle-aged couple. ▪ *bedroom* humor
3 *informal* : showing sexual attraction ▪ She looked at him with ***bedroom eyes***.

bed•sheet /ˈbɛdˌʃiːt/ *noun, pl* **-sheets** [*count*] *chiefly US* : SHEET 1b ▪ blankets and *bedsheets* [=*sheets*]

bed•side /ˈbɛdˌsaɪd/ *noun* [*singular*] : the place next to a person's bed ▪ She sat at his *bedside* until the fever broke. — often used before another noun ▪ a *bedside* table/lamp

bedside manner *noun, pl* ~ **-ners** [*count*] : the way a doctor or nurse behaves with patients ▪ A number of patients have complained about the doctor's impersonal *bedside manner*. ▪ a nurse with a warm *bedside manner*

bed•sit /ˌbɛdˈsɪt/ *noun, pl* **-sits** [*count*] *Brit* : an apartment with only one room that is used for both sleeping and living in — called also *bedsitter, bedsitting room*

bed•sore /ˈbɛdˌsoɚ/ *noun, pl* **-sores** [*count*] : a sore that people get from lying in bed for a very long time when they are sick or injured

bed•spread /ˈbɛdˌsprɛd/ *noun, pl* **-spreads** [*count*] : a decorative cover for a bed — see picture at BED

bed•stead /ˈbɛdˌstɛd/ *noun, pl* **-steads** [*count*] : the frame of a bed : the part of a bed on which the mattress lies

bed•time /ˈbɛdˌtaɪm/ *noun, pl* **-times** : the usual time when someone goes to bed [*count*] The children are still up? It's way past their *bedtimes*. [*noncount*] It's almost *bedtime*. ▪ Will you read the children a ***bedtime story***? [=a story that is read or told to children when they go to bed]

bed–wet•ting /ˈbɛdˌwɛtɪŋ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : urinating that occurs while someone (such as a child) is sleeping in bed
– **bed–wet•ter** /ˈbɛdˌwɛtɚ/ *noun, pl* **-wet•ters** [*count*]

[1]bee /ˈbiː/ *noun, pl* **bees** [*count*] : a black and yellow flying insect that can sting and that is often kept in hives for the honey that it produces ▪ flowers pollinated by *bees* and other insects ▪ a swarm of buzzing/humming *bees* — sometimes used figuratively ▪ My mom is a real ***busy bee*** around Christmastime. [=she is very busy and active] — see also BUMBLEBEE, HONEYBEE, KILLER BEE
(as) busy as a bee *informal* : very busy and active ▪ My mom is (*as*) *busy as a bee* around Christmastime.
have a bee in your bonnet *informal* : to talk and think a lot about something ▪ He always *has a bee in his bonnet* about safety.
the birds and the bees see BIRD
– compare [2]BEE

[2]bee *noun, pl* **bees** [*count*] *US* : a gathering of people for the purpose of spending time together while working on similar projects ▪ a quilting *bee* — see also SPELLING BEE — compare [1]BEE

Beeb /ˈbiːb/ *noun*
the Beeb *Brit, informal* : the BBC ▪ work for/at *the Beeb*

beech /ˈbiːʧ/ *noun, pl* **beech•es** *or* **beech**
1 [*count*] : a kind of tree that has smooth gray bark and small nuts — called also *beech tree*
2 [*noncount*] : the wood of the beech ▪ a box made of *beech*

[1]beef /ˈbiːf/ *noun, pl* **beefs**
1 [*noncount*] : meat from a cow ▪ a pound of *beef* ▪ ground *beef* ▪ I'm not eating as much *beef* as I used to. — often used before another noun ▪ the *beef* industry ▪ *beef* stew [=a stew made with beef]
2 [*count*] *informal* : COMPLAINT ▪ My real *beef* is with the organization's president, not the group itself. ▪ What's your *beef*?
3 [*noncount*] *informal* : muscles ▪ a football player with a lot of *beef* and brawn [=a very muscular football player]

[2]beef *verb* **beefs**; **beefed**; **beef•ing** [*no obj*] *informal* : COMPLAIN ▪ She's always *beefing* about something.
beef up [*phrasal verb*] ***beef (something) up*** *or* ***beef up (something)*** *informal* : to add weight, strength, or power to (something) ▪ Security around the city will be *beefed up* during the event. ▪ The medicine helps *beef up* the immune system.

beef•bur•ger /ˈbiːfˌbɚgɚ/ *noun, pl* **-gers** [*count*] *chiefly Brit* : HAMBURGER

beef•cake /ˈbiːfˌkeɪk/ *noun, pl* **-cakes** *informal*
1 [*noncount*] : men who are muscular and attractive ▪ He's not a great actor but he gets roles anyway because of all the moviegoers interested in *beefcake*. ▪ *beefcake* photos/posters
2 [*count*] *US* : a muscular and attractive man ▪ He's one of Hollywood's most celebrated *beefcakes*. — compare CHEESECAKE

Beef•eat•er /ˈbiːfˌiːtɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : a guard at the Tower of London who wears an old-fashioned uniform

beef•steak /ˈbiːfˌsteɪk/ *noun, pl* **-steaks** : a thick slice of beef : STEAK [*count*] a grilled *beefsteak* [*noncount*] a slice of *beefsteak*

beefy /ˈbiːfi/ *adj* **beef•i•er**; **-est**
1 : large, strong, and often fat ▪ a *beefy* football player ▪ *beefy* arms/legs
2 *US* : strongly built ▪ *beefy* shock absorbers ▪ The new truck has a *beefier* construction than the old model.
3 *chiefly US* : of or relating to beef ▪ a *beefy* flavor

bee•hive /ˈbiːˌhaɪv/ *noun, pl* **-hives** [*count*]
1 : a nest for bees : HIVE
2 : a place filled with busy activity ▪ The office was a *beehive* of activity.
3 : a woman's hairdo in which long hair is piled high on top of the head ▪ wearing her hair in a *beehive* ▪ a *beehive* hairdo

bee•keep•er /ˈbiːˌkiːpɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : a person who raises bees ▪ a local *beekeeper*
– **bee•keep•ing** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ She took up *beekeeping* late in life.

[1]bee•line /ˈbiːˌlaɪn/ *noun*
make a beeline for *informal* : to go quickly and directly at or to (something or someone) ▪ He *made a beeline for* the kitchen. [=he headed straight to the kitchen]

[2]beeline *verb, always followed by an adverb or preposition* **-lines**; **-lined**; **-lin•ing** [*no obj*] *US, informal* : to go quickly in a direct course ▪ He *beelined* out the door.

been *past participle of* BE

[1]beep /ˈbiːp/ *noun, pl* **beeps** [*count*] : a short, high sound made by a horn, an electronic device, etc. ▪ the *beep* of a car horn ▪ Please leave a message after the *beep*.

[2]beep *verb* **beeps**; **beeped**; **beep•ing**

1 : to cause (a horn, an electronic device, etc.) to make a beep [+ *obj*] Why did you *beep* your horn at her? [*no obj*] She *beeped* at me first. ▪ Something is *beeping* in the kitchen. ▪ I could hear a *beeping* noise.

2 [+ *obj*] : to send a message to (someone) with a beeper ▪ The doctor is not in the office today, but I can *beep* her for you. [=I can send the doctor a signal that will tell her to call the office]

beep•er /'bi:pɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] *chiefly US* : PAGER

beer /'biɚ/ *noun, pl* **beers**

1 : an alcoholic drink made from malt and flavored with hops [*noncount*] Would you like *beer* with dinner? ▪ The pub brews its own *beer*. ▪ a glass of *beer* ▪ a *beer* mug [*count*] I'll have a *beer*, please. ▪ a couple of cold *beers*

2 [*noncount*] : a drink made from roots or other parts of plants ▪ a glass of birch/ginger *beer* — see also ROOT BEER

– beery /'biri/ *adj* **beer•i•er**; **-est** ▪ a *beery* flavor/smell ▪ a *beery* tavern

beer belly *noun, pl* ~ **bellies** [*count*] *informal* : a fat belly caused by drinking a lot of beer ▪ a middle-aged man with a big *beer belly* — called also *beer gut*

beer mat *noun, pl* ~ **mats** [*count*] *Brit* : a small piece of material placed under a glass of beer to protect the bar or table beneath it — compare COASTER

bee's knees *noun*

the bee's knees *informal + old-fashioned* : an excellent person or thing ▪ She's *the bee's knees*. [=I like her very much]

bees•wax /'bi:zˌwæks/ *noun* [*noncount*] : wax made by bees that is used for making candles and other products

none of your beeswax *US, informal* — used as a way of telling someone that you won't provide information because it is private ▪ "How old are you?" "That's *none of your beeswax*." [=*none of your business*]

beet /'bi:t/ *noun, pl* **beets** [*count*]

1 *US* **a** : a garden plant with thick leaves and a rounded red root ▪ I've planted carrots, parsnips, and *beets* in the garden. — called also (*Brit*) *beetroot* **b** : the rounded red root of the beet plant that is eaten as a vegetable ▪ sliced *beets* — called also (*Brit*) *beetroot*; see color picture on page C4

2 *Brit* : SUGAR BEET

beet red *or* ***red as a beet*** : red in the face especially from embarrassment ▪ When she realized her mistake, she ***turned beet red***. [=*blushed*]

[1]bee•tle /'bi:tl/ *noun, pl* **bee•tles** [*count*] : a type of insect with wings that form a hard cover on its back when it is not flying

[2]beetle *verb, always followed by an adverb or preposition* **bee•tles**; **bee•tled**; **bee•tling** [*no obj*] *chiefly Brit, informal* : to move quickly ▪ Everyone looked very busy, *beetling* [=*scurrying*] about the office. ▪ Everybody *beetled* off home.

beetle–browed *adj* : having large and thick eyebrows ▪ a *beetle-browed* old man

beet•root /'bi:tˌru:t/ *noun, pl* **-roots** [*count, noncount*] *Brit* : BEET 1

be•fall /bɪ'fɑ:l/ *verb* **-falls**; **-fell** /bɪ'fɛl/; **-fall•en** /bi'fɑ:lən/; **-fall•ing** [+ *obj*] *formal, of something bad or unpleasant* : to happen to (someone or something) ▪ It's sad to think of the unhappy fate that *befell* him. ▪ The drought was only one of many hardships to *befall* the small country.

be•fit /bɪ'fɪt/ *verb* **-fits**; **-fit•ted**; **-fit•ting** [+ *obj*] *formal* : to be suitable to or proper for (someone or something) ▪ She has a mind for serious inquiry, as *befits* a scientist. ▪ clothes *befitting* [=*fitting*] the occasion

– be•fit•ting•ly /bɪ'fɪtɪŋli/ *adv* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

[1]be•fore /bɪ'foɚ/ *adv*

1 : at an earlier time ▪ Haven't we met *before*? ▪ the night/day *before* ▪ I've never seen her so happy *before*. [=I've never seen her as happy as she is now] ▪ We haven't had these problems *before*. ▪ Everything is just as (it was) *before*.

2 *formal + old-fashioned* : to or toward the place where someone is going : in advance ▪ marching on *before* [=*ahead*]

[2]before *prep*

1 a : at a time preceding (something or someone) : earlier than (something or someone) ▪ We arrived shortly *before* six o'clock. ▪ *before* dinner ▪ He left just *before* sunrise. ▪ I've never seen her so happy *before* now. ▪ Call me *before* your arrival. ▪ She arrived the day *before* yesterday. ▪ Why haven't you ever helped me *before* now/this? ▪ I finished the exam *before* him. [=before he finished the exam] ▪ You can go *before* me. [=before I go] ▪ He's an electrician, like his father *before* him. [=his father was also an electrician] ▪ They earned 50,000 dollars *before* (paying) taxes. **b** *US* — used to describe a time earlier than a specified hour ▪ It's 20 (minutes) *before* 12. [=it's 20 of/to 12; it's 11:40]

2 : preceding (something or someone) in order or in a series ▪ Your name is listed *before* mine. ▪ You'll see my house just *before* the bank and after the school. ▪ The number 2 comes *before* 3 and after 1. [=2 comes between 1 and 3]

3 a : in front of (someone or something) ▪ The Great Plains stretched endlessly *before* them. ▪ The championship fight took place *before* a crowd of thousands. : in the presence of (someone) ▪ The defendant stood up *before* the judge. — see also *(right) before/in front of your (very) eyes* at [1]EYE **b** : being considered by (someone or something) ▪ The case *before* the court involves a robbery. ▪ the candidates *before* the voters ▪ I have a proposal to put *before* [=*to*] the board. ▪ The question *before* us is this: did he fall or was he pushed? **c** : in the future for (someone) : ahead of (someone) ▪ They had no idea of the ordeal that lay *before* them.

4 a : in a higher or more important position than (something) ▪ They put quantity *before* [=*above*] quality. [=they cared more about quantity than about quality] **b** : rather or sooner than ▪ He vowed that he would choose death *before* dishonor. [=he would rather die than be dishonored]

5 *formal* : under the force of (something) ▪ The tree fell *before* the force of the wind. [=the force of the wind caused the tree to fall]

[3]before *conj*

1 a : earlier than the time that : earlier than when ▪ He left long *before* morning came. ▪ The judge stood up *before* the defendant did. [=the defendant stood up after the judge did] ▪ Say goodbye *before* you go. ▪ Call me *before* you arrive. ▪ *Before* [=*until*] she met him she had never been so happy. ▪ I finished the exam *before* he did. ▪ It was/happened not long *before* he arrived. ▪ He left *before* I could thank him. [=I wasn't able to thank him because he left too soon] ▪ I'll resign *before* I give in! [=I would rather resign than give in] — see also *before you know it* at [1]KNOW **b** : until the time that ▪ It did not take long *before* he had earned their trust. [=he earned their trust quickly] ▪ "I have promises to keep and miles to go *before* I sleep . . ." —Robert Frost, "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening" (1923)

2 a — used to refer to something that might happen ▪ Get out of there *before* you get dirty! [=get out of there because you will/might get dirty if you don't] ▪ *Before* I forget, will you give me your telephone number? [=I'm asking for your telephone number now because I might forget to do it later] **b** — used to say that one thing must happen for another thing to happen or be possible ▪ He must be convicted *before* he can be removed from office. ▪ You must have completed an introductory class *before* you can take an advanced class.

be•fore•hand /bɪ'foɚˌhænd/ *adv* : in advance : at an earlier or previous time ▪ They'd agreed *beforehand* [=*ahead of time*] to leave early. ▪ We paid for our tickets *beforehand*.

be•foul /bɪ'fawəl/ *verb* **-fouls**; **-fouled**; **-foul•ing** [+ *obj*] *formal* : to make (a substance, place, etc.) dirty : FOUL ▪ pollutants that *befoul* the air and water

be•friend /bɪ'frɛnd/ *verb* **-friends**; **-friend•ed**; **-friend•ing** [+ *obj*] : to become a friend to (someone) ▪ He *befriended* the new student.

be•fud•dled /bɪ'fʌdld/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : unable to think clearly : very confused ▪ Many people are totally *befuddled* by the tax code. ▪ The paperwork left me completely *befuddled*.

beg /'bɛg/ *verb* **begs**; **begged**; **beg•ging**

1 : to ask people for money or food [*no obj*] A homeless man *begs* on that corner every day. ▪ children *begging* for food [+ *obj*] children *begging* strangers for food ▪ children *begging* food from strangers

2 a : to ask (someone) in a very serious and emotional way for something needed or wanted very much [+ *obj*] He *begged* the doctor for medicine. ▪ He *begged* her for forgiveness. = He *begged* her to forgive him. ▪ She *begged* him to read the story again. ▪ I *beg* you to help them! = Help them, I *beg* you! ▪ "Help them!" I *begged*. [*no obj*] — + *of* ▪ (*formal*) I *beg of* you to help them! **b** : to ask for (something needed or wanted very much) in a very serious and emotional way [+ *obj*] He got down on his knees and *begged* forgiveness. = He got down on his knees and *begged* to be forgiven. ▪ He *begged* that she would forgive him. ▪ *begging* a favor of someone [*no obj*] He's too proud to *beg*. ▪ He *begged* for forgiveness.

3 [*no obj*] *of a dog* : to sit up on the back legs with the front legs raised ▪ "Does your dog know any tricks?" "She knows how to *beg*."

4 [+ *obj*] *of a thing* : to seem perfect for some purpose : to be very well suited for something — followed by *to* + *verb* ▪ I couldn't resist cutting some of the flowers. They were just *begging to be made* into a bouquet. ▪ a scene *begging to be photographed* [=a scene that should be photographed]

beg, borrow, or/and steal *informal* : to do whatever is necessary to get something that is wanted or needed ▪ We'll have to *beg, borrow, or steal* the extra chairs we need for the party.

beg leave *formal* + *old-fashioned* : to ask for permission — followed by *to* + *verb* ▪ We *beg leave to offer* our humble thanks. ▪ I *beg leave to differ* with you, sir.

beg off [*phrasal verb*] *informal* : to say that you cannot do something that you have been asked to do or have agreed to do ▪ He originally said he'd go to the party, but he later *begged off* (going), claiming he had to work that night.

beg the question **1** : to cause someone to ask a specified question as a reaction or response ▪ The quarterback's injury *begs the question* of who will start in his place. ▪ The tragic drowning *begs the question*: why are there no safe places in the area for children to swim? **2** *formal* : to ignore a question or issue by assuming it has been answered or settled ▪ Their proposed solution *begs the question* of whether the changes in the town are actually a problem.

beg to differ : to politely disagree with someone ▪ You say that the candidates are essentially the same, but I *beg to differ*. [=I do not agree]

beg your pardon ✧ The phrase *I beg your pardon* is used in polite speech to apologize when you have done something impolite or when you have made a mistake. ▪ *I beg your pardon*. [=*sorry, excuse me*] I didn't mean to bump into you like that. ▪ *I beg your pardon*. You're correct; the amount is 12 dollars. It can be used to show that you are annoyed or offended by something that another person has said. ▪ "That boy isn't very bright." "*I beg your pardon*! That's my son!" It can also be used as a question when you have not heard or understood something clearly. ▪ *I beg your pardon* [=*excuse me, sorry*]? What did you say? The shorter form ***beg pardon*** is also used informally this way. ▪ "He's been in Haiti for the past two months." "*Beg pardon*? He's been in Hawaii?" "No, Haiti."

go begging *chiefly Brit* : to be something that few or no people want ▪ With the poor economy, many expensive restaurants now have tables that *go begging*. [=tables that are empty because there are no customers] ▪ If that last biscuit's (still) *going begging*, can I have it, please?

began *past tense of* BEGIN

be•get /bɪ'gɛt/ *verb* **-got** /-'gɑ:t/ *also* **-gat** /-'gæt/; **-got•ten** /-'gɑ:tn̩/ *or* **-got**; **-get•ting** [+ *obj*]

1 *formal* : to cause (something) to happen or exist ▪ Violence *begets* [=*causes*] more violence.

2 *old-fashioned* + *literary* : to become the father of (someone) ▪ He died without *begetting* an heir.

– **be•get•ter** *noun, pl* **-ters** [*count*]

[1]beg•gar /'bɛgɚ/ *noun, pl* **-gars** [*count*]

1 : a person who lives by begging for money, food, etc.

2 *Brit, informal* : a person who is regarded as lucky, unlucky, lazy, etc. ▪ I heard you won the contest! You lucky *beggar*! ▪ He's a lazy *beggar*.

beggars can't be choosers ✧ The saying *beggars can't be choosers* means that people who need something must be satisfied with whatever they get even if it is not exactly what they wanted.

[2]beggar *verb* **-gars**; **-gared**; **-gar•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 *formal* : to make (someone or something) very poor ▪ Years of civil war had *beggared* the country.

2 *chiefly Brit* — used in the phrases ***beggar belief*** and ***beggar description*** to talk about something that is very difficult to believe or describe ▪ It almost *beggars belief* [=it is very hard to believe] that anyone can be so cruel. ▪ a plot so complex that it *beggars description*

beg•gar•ly /'bɛgɚli/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *formal* : very small or poor ▪ She received a *beggarly* sum for her efforts.

be•gin /bɪ'gɪn/ *verb* **-gins**; **-gan** /-'gæn/; **-gun** /-'gʌn/; **-gin•ning**

1 a : to do the first part of an action : to start doing something [+ *obj*] They will *begin* construction on the new school soon. ▪ I got the job and I *begin* work on Monday! ▪ She'll *begin* the lecture at 10. ▪ He plans to *begin* the project later this week. ▪ They both *began* their careers at the local newspaper. ▪ The university *began* accepting applications in November. ▪ I had just *begun* eating when the phone rang. ▪ She interrupted as soon as I *began* to speak. [*no obj*] He *began* by showing some photographs of his trip. = He *began* with some photographs of his trip. ▪ Now that I've *begun*, I'll go on till I finish. ▪ You'll have to *begin* again. [=start over] **b** [+ *obj*] : to start to work on, produce, or give attention to (something) ▪ I *began* the quilt last month. ▪ I *began* (reading) the book last week. ▪ Schubert *began* more symphonies than he finished. **c** [+ *obj*] : to cause (something) to start ▪ The chairman *began* the meeting at noon. ▪ They *began* [=*founded*] the state's first traveling theater troupe. **d** [+ *obj*] : to start to have a feeling, thought, etc. — usually followed by *to* + *verb* ▪ She *began to feel* dizzy soon after the accident. ▪ I'm *beginning to think* the oversight was intentional. — sometimes + *-ing verb* ▪ She *began feeling* dizzy soon after the accident.

2 : to start to happen, to exist, to be done, etc. [*no obj*] The meeting *began* [=*started*] in the morning and finished/ended at noon. ▪ Construction on the new school will *begin* soon. ▪ Our problems were just *beginning*. ▪ When does the play *begin*? ▪ The rain *began* around noon. ▪ Let the games *begin*. ▪ The American Civil War *began* in 1861 and ended in 1865. ▪ His passion for music *began* at the age of six when he had his first piano lessons. [+ *obj*] — followed by *to* + *verb* ▪ It's *beginning* [=*starting*] *to rain*. ▪ The flowers on the trees are *beginning to bloom*.

3 [*no obj*] **a** : to have a particular starting point : to start at a specified place or in a specified way ▪ "Where does the river *begin*?" "It *begins* in the mountains to the north." ▪ The meeting *began* on a positive note. ▪ The meeting *began* with an announcement. [=an announcement was made at the start of the meeting] ▪ The English alphabet *begins* with A and ends with Z. ▪ Each sentence should *begin* with a capital. ▪ The season *began* with our team in last place but finished (up) with us in first place. ▪ Her long career in advertising *began* at a small firm in Chicago. ▪ Prices for the hotel rooms *begin* at 85 dollars. [=85 dollars is the lowest price for a hotel room; some rooms cost more than 85 dollars] ▪ The road *begins* at the bottom of the hill and ends at the top of the hill. **b** : to have a specified quality, identity, job, etc., at the start — + *as* ▪ What *began* [=*started*] *as* a simple idea has become a complicated project. ▪ The town *began as* a small farming community. ▪ He *began as* a clerk [=he was a clerk when he started working] and eventually became president of the company.

4 [+ *obj*] : to start speaking by saying (something) ▪ "Allow me to introduce myself," he *began*.

5 — used in an exaggerated way to say that something is not possible ▪ I ***can't even begin to describe*** how good the food was. [=the food was very good] ▪ I ***can't begin to tell you*** how grateful I am for all your help. [=I am very grateful for all your help] ▪ I ***can hardly begin to thank you*** for all you've done.

to begin with **1** : as the first thing to be thought about or considered ▪ "I don't think we should buy the car." "Why not?" "*To begin with*, I'm not sure we can afford it." **2** : at the start : before the current time or situation ▪ She has lost a lot of weight, and she wasn't very heavy *to begin with*. ▪ She didn't like her job *to begin with*, [=*at first, initially*] but she got used to it eventually.

be•gin•ner /bɪ'gɪnɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ners** [*count*] : a person who is beginning something or doing something for the first time ▪ a swimming class for complete *beginners* = a *beginner* class ▪ The success of his first restaurant was just ***beginner's luck*** [=he succeeded because he was lucky, as beginners sometimes are]

[1]be•gin•ning /bɪ'gɪnɪŋ/ *noun, pl* **-nings**

1 [*count*] : the point or time at which something begins : a starting point — usually singular ▪ He has been working there since the *beginning* of the year. ▪ A poem was recited at the *beginning* of the wedding ceremony. ▪ It was clear ***from the (very) beginning*** that she would eventually succeed. ▪ The company was very small ***in the beginning*** [=when it began], but it eventually became a giant corporation. ▪ The argument marked ***the beginning of the end*** of their marriage. [=the argument was the start of a series of events that led to the end of their marriage]

2 [*count*] : the first part of something ▪ Go back to the *beginning* of the song. ▪ We were late, so we missed the *beginning* of the movie. ▪ The changes that have been made so far are ***just/only the beginning***. There are many more changes still to come.

3 *beginnings* [*plural*] **a** : an early stage or period ▪ I have the *beginnings* of a sore throat. [=my throat is starting to feel

sore] **b :** the origins or background of a person or thing ▪ He came from humble *beginnings*. ▪ the company's modest *beginnings* in an old warehouse ▪ The organization ***had its beginnings*** [=*began*] in a small Midwestern town.

²beginning *adj* **:** involving or learning about the simple or basic parts of a subject ▪ *beginning* mathematics ▪ The school has courses for *beginning* [=*elementary*], intermediate, and advanced students.

be•gone /bɪ'gɑ:n/ *interj, old-fashioned + literary* — used to tell someone to go away ▪ *Begone!*

be•go•nia /bɪ'goʊnjə/ *noun, pl* **-nias** [*count*] **:** a tropical plant that has shiny leaves and bright flowers

begot *past tense and past participle of* BEGET

begotten *past participle of* BEGET

be•grudge /bɪ'grʌʤ/ *verb* **-grudg•es; -grudged; -grudg•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to think that someone does not deserve something ▪ She's worked hard to get where she is. You shouldn't *begrudge* her the success she's earned. ▪ After what he's been through, it's hard to *begrudge* him the money he has. **:** to regard (something) as not being earned or deserved ▪ You shouldn't *begrudge* her success.

2 : to give or allow (something) in a reluctant or unwilling way ▪ Many commuters *begrudge* every minute spent in traffic.

begrudging /bɪ'grʌʤɪŋ/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] **:** said, done, or given in a reluctant way **:** GRUDGING ▪ *begrudging* acceptance/admiration/respect

– be•grudg•ing•ly /bɪ'grʌʤɪŋli/ *adv* ▪ She agreed *begrudgingly*.

be•guile /bɪ'gajəl/ *verb* **-guiles; -guiled; -guil•ing**

1 [+ *obj*] **:** to trick or deceive (someone) ▪ She was cunning enough to *beguile* her classmates into doing the work for her. ▪ They were *beguiled* into thinking they'd heard the whole story.

2 : to attract or interest someone [*no obj*] Almost everything in the quaint little town *beguiles*, from its architecture to its art to its people. [+ *obj*] He *beguiled* the audience with his smooth and seductive voice. — often used as *(be) beguiled* ▪ I *was beguiled* [=*charmed*] by his voice.

– beguiling *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] ▪ a *beguiling* [=*charming*] melody ▪ a *beguiling* temptress ▪ The movie is a *beguiling* blend of humor and tragedy. **– be•guil•ing•ly** /bɪ'gaɪlɪŋli/ *adv* [*more ~; most ~*] ▪ a *beguilingly* smooth and seductive voice

begun *past participle of* BEGIN

be•half /bɪ'hæf, *Brit* bɪ'hɑ:f/ *noun*

on behalf of someone *or* ***on someone's behalf*** **1 :** as a representative of someone ▪ The teacher accepted the award *on behalf of the whole class*. ▪ She's been elected to go before the town council *on behalf of the county's farmers*. **2** *or US* ***in behalf of someone*** *or* ***in someone's behalf*** **:** for the benefit of someone **:** in support of someone ▪ She spoke *in behalf of the other candidate*. ▪ They're willing to do anything *on their child's behalf*. ▪ He argued before the court *on her behalf*. **3 :** because of someone ▪ Don't get up *on my behalf*.

be•have /bɪ'heɪv/ *verb* **-haves; -haved; -hav•ing**

1 : to act in an acceptable way **:** to act properly [*no obj*] If you can't *behave* in the store we'll have to leave. [+ *obj*] If you can't ***behave yourself*** in the store we'll have to leave. ▪ I wish those children would *behave themselves*. — opposite MISBEHAVE

2 [*no obj*] **:** to act in a particular way ▪ He *behaves* like a child! ▪ *behave* well/generously

3 [*no obj*] *of a thing* **:** to function, react, or move in a particular way ▪ The experiment tested how various metals *behave* under heat and pressure.

behaved *adj* **:** behaving in a certain way ▪ a well-*behaved* child [=a child who behaves well; a polite child] ▪ a very badly *behaved* little boy

be•hav•ior *(US) or Brit* **be•hav•iour** /bɪ'heɪvjɚ/ *noun, pl* **-iors**

1 : the way a person or animal acts or behaves [*noncount*] I'm surprised by her bad *behavior* toward her friends. ▪ Students will be rewarded for good *behavior*. ▪ scientists studying the *behavior* of elephants ▪ normal adolescent *behavior* ▪ criminal *behavior* ▪ an interesting ***pattern of behavior*** = an interesting ***behavior pattern*** ▪ The children were all ***on their best behavior*** [=were all behaving very well and politely] at the museum. ▪ Inmates may be released from prison early ***for good behavior*** [=because they have followed prison rules and have not caused problems] [*count*] An acceptable social *behavior* in one country may be unacceptable in another country. ▪ Doctors are trying to educate people about *behaviors* that can put them at increased risk for skin cancer.

2 [*noncount*] **:** the way something (such as a machine or substance) moves, functions, or reacts ▪ The experiment tested the *behavior* of various metals under heat and pressure.

– be•hav•ior•al *(US) or Brit* **be•hav•iour•al** /bɪ'heɪvjərəl/ *adj* ▪ *behavioral* problems ▪ *behavioral* patterns

be•head /bɪ'hɛd/ *verb* **-heads; -head•ed; -head•ing** [+ *obj*] **:** to cut off the head of (someone) especially as a punishment ▪ Louis XVI was *beheaded* in 1793.

beheld *past tense and past participle of* BEHOLD

be•he•moth /bɪ'hi:məθ/ *noun, pl* **-moths** [*count*] **:** something very big and powerful ▪ a corporate *behemoth* [=a giant corporation]

be•hest /bɪ'hɛst/ *noun*

at the behest of someone *or* ***at someone's behest*** *formal* **:** because of being asked or ordered by someone ▪ A special meeting will be held *at the senator's behest*.

¹be•hind /bɪ'haɪnd/ *adv*

1 a : in or toward the back ▪ look *behind* ▪ The older students entered the room first with the younger students following *behind*. **b :** in the place that someone is going away from ▪ She ***stayed behind*** after the other guests left. ▪ They ***left behind*** everything they owned when they fled the country. ▪ We had to *leave* our family, friends, and neighbors *behind*. — often used figuratively ▪ She has *left* her fears and doubts *behind*. [=she is no longer fearful and doubtful] ▪ She wanted to ***leave the past behind*** [=forget about the past] **c :** later in time ▪ "If Winter comes, can Spring be far *behind*?" —P. B. Shelley, "Ode to the West Wind" (1820)

2 : in a losing position in a race or competition ▪ "How far *behind* was she?" "At least 50 yards (*behind*)." ▪ We were ahead in the first half, but now we're *behind*. ▪ We were *behind* by five runs. = We were five runs *behind*. ▪ a politician who is *behind* in the polls ▪ She was losing the race but she ***came from behind*** and is now in front.

3 a — used to describe something that is not happening or proceeding as quickly as it should ▪ We're running about five minutes *behind* [=*late*] with tonight's schedule. **b** — used to describe someone who is not doing something (such as paying a debt) as quickly as required or expected ▪ He got a bit *behind* [=*late*] in/with his payments. ▪ He is *behind* in (paying) his rent.

²behind *prep*

1 : in or to a place at the back of or to the rear of (someone or something) ▪ Look *behind* you. ▪ He was standing in front of me and she was standing *behind* [=*in back of*] me. ▪ The older students entered the room first with the younger students following *behind* them. ▪ The house is *behind* some trees. [=there are some trees in front of the house] ▪ The cat hid *behind* the couch. ▪ The sun went/hid/was *behind* a cloud. — see also *behind the eight ball* at EIGHT BALL

2 : losing to (someone or something) in a race or competition ▪ "How far *behind* the other runners was she?" "At least 50 yards (*behind* them)." ▪ They were ahead of us by 5 points earlier in the game, but now they're *behind* us by 7. ▪ The polls show that he is *behind* the other candidates. ▪ The company is now *behind* the competition.

3 : in a less advanced position than (someone or something) ▪ He was a year *behind* me in school. [=he finished school a year after I did] **:** not happening or proceeding as quickly as (someone or something) ▪ He was *behind* the other students in his studies. ▪ This year's sales have lagged considerably/significantly *behind* last year's sales. [=sales have not been as good this year as they were last year] ▪ We're running about five minutes ***behind schedule*** [=*late*]

4 a : in the past for (someone or something) ▪ Those problems are *behind* us now. ▪ Her best work is *behind* her. [=her best work was in the past] ▪ He has many years of experience *behind* him. [=he has many years of experience in his past] **b :** out of the mind or thoughts of (someone) ▪ Let's put our troubles *behind* us. [=let's stop thinking/worrying about our troubles]

5 a : providing the reason or explanation for (something) ▪ We need to learn more about the conditions *behind* the strike. [=the conditions that led to the strike] ▪ What was really *behind* his murder? [=what was the real reason for his murder?] **b :** responsible for (something) ▪ We'll get to the bottom of this conspiracy and find out who's *behind* it!

6 a : in support of (someone or something) ▪ Despite the

controversy, most of his supporters remain solidly *behind* him. • We're *behind* you all the way! • I encourage everyone to ***get behind*** these proposals. [=to support these proposals]

b : with the support of (something) • They won the game 1–0 *behind* brilliant pitching. [=brilliant pitching made it possible for them to win the game 1–0]

behind bars see [1]BAR

behind the times see [1]TIME

[3]behind *noun, pl* **-hinds** [*count*] *informal* : the part of the body above the legs that is used for sitting : BUTTOCKS • kicked him in the *behind* • Get your *behind* over here right now! [=come here right now]

behind–the–scenes *adj, always used before a noun*

1 : working or happening privately without being known or seen by the public • There has been a lot of *behind-the-scenes* lobbying for more money. • She exerted a lot of *behind-the-scenes* influence when the project was being planned. • an effective *behind-the-scenes* operator

2 : revealing or reporting on things that usually happen privately without being known or seen by the public • The documentary provides a *behind-the-scenes* glimpse of Congress in action. • a *behind-the-scenes* account — see also *behind the scenes* at SCENE

be•hold /bɪ'hoʊld/ *verb* **-holds**; **-held** /bɪ'hɛld/; **-hold•ing** [+ *obj*] *formal* + *literary* : to look at (something) : to see (something) • Those who have *beheld* the beauty of the desert never forget it. • The huge crowd that gathered at the stadium was ***a sight/wonder to behold***. [=was a wonderful or impressive thing to see] — see also *lo and behold* at LO

– **be•hold•er** *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] • ***Beauty is in the eye of the beholder***. [=different people have different ideas about what is beautiful]

be•hold•en /bɪ'hoʊldən/ *adj*

beholden to *formal* : owing a favor or gift to (someone) : having obligations to (someone) • politicians who are *beholden to* special interest groups • She works for herself, and so is *beholden to* no one.

be•hoove (*US*) /bɪ'hu:v/ *or Brit* **be•hove** /bɪ'hoʊv/ *verb* **-hooves**; **-hooved**; **-hoov•ing** [+ *obj*] *formal* : to be necessary or proper for (someone) • He behaved with dignity, as *behooves* [=*befits*] a man of his age. ✧ The subject of *behoove* is usually the pronoun *it*. • It *behooves* a good citizen to obey the law. [=a good citizen should obey the law] • It ill *behooves* you to act so rudely. [=you should not act so rudely]

beige /'beɪʒ/ *noun, pl* **beig•es** [*count, noncount*] : a light yellowish-brown color — see color picture on page C3

– **beige** *adj* • a *beige* skirt

[1]be•ing /'bi:jɪŋ/ *noun, pl* **-ings**

1 [*count*] : a living thing • a human/alien/mythical *being* • sentient/sexual *beings* — see also SUPREME BEING

2 [*noncount*] : the state of existing : EXISTENCE • philosophies of *being* • The story of how the university ***came into being*** [=began to exist; came to be] is quite fascinating. • a social movement that was ***brought into being*** in the 1960s

3 [*noncount*] *formal* : the most important or basic part of a person's mind or self • I knew it was true in the core of my *being*. • He loved music with his whole *being*. [=he deeply loved music]

with every fiber of your being see FIBER

[2]being *conj, informal* : SINCE — usually + *that* or *as* or *as how* • *Being that/as* it was too late to go home, we stayed the night at a hotel. • It should be her decision, *being as how* she's the one who's paying for it.

[3]being *present participle of* BE

be•je•sus /bɪ'dʒi:zəs/ *noun*

the bejesus *informal* — used for emphasis after words like *scare, frighten*, and *beat* • That movie scared *the bejesus* out of me. [=that movie scared me very badly] • They beat *the bejesus* out of the other team.

be•jew•eled (*US*) *or Brit* **be•jew•elled** /bɪ'ju:ld/ *adj* : decorated with jewels • the *bejeweled* princess • a *bejeweled* sword — sometimes used figuratively • the city's *bejeweled* [=*sparkling*] skyline

be•la•bor (*US*) *or Brit* **be•la•bour** /bɪ'leɪbɚ/ *verb* **-bors**; **-bored**; **-bor•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to talk about (something) for too long : to repeat or stress (something) too much or too often • Her habit of *belaboring* the obvious makes her a very boring speaker. • Please don't *belabor* the point.

2 : to attack or criticize (someone) • He uses his newspaper column to *belabor* writers for even the most minor grammatical errors.

be•lat•ed /bɪ'leɪtəd/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : happening or coming very late or too late • a *belated* birthday card • She received *belated* recognition for her scientific discovery.

– **be•lat•ed•ly** *adv* • She was *belatedly* recognized by the scientific community. – **be•lat•ed•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

be•lay /bɪ'leɪ/ *verb* **-lays**; **-layed**; **-lay•ing** [+ *obj*] : to attach (a rope) to something so that it is secure • The climber *belayed* the rope. : to attach a secure rope to (a person) for safety • *belay* a climber

belch /'bɛlʧ/ *verb* **belch•es**; **belched**; **belch•ing**

1 [*no obj*] : to let out air from the stomach through the mouth very loudly • He *belched* loudly, and his girlfriend said, "That's disgusting!" — compare BURP

2 : to push or throw (something) out with force [+ *obj*] noisy trucks *belching* (out) black exhaust [*no obj*] black exhaust fumes *belching* (out) from noisy trucks • Smoke *belched* from the factory chimneys beside the river.

– **belch** *noun, pl* **belches** [*count*] • a rude *belch* • *belches* of smoke – **belch•er** *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]

be•lea•guer /bɪ'li:gɚ/ *verb* **-guers**; **-guered**; **-guer•ing** [+ *obj*] *formal* : to cause constant or repeated trouble for (a person, business, etc.) • the lack of funds that *beleaguers* schools — usually used as *(be) beleaguered* • The team has *been beleaguered* by errors. • a company *beleaguered* by debt

– **beleaguered** *adj* • an economically *beleaguered* city • a *beleaguered* politician [=a politician who is being criticized by many people]

bel•fry /'bɛlfri/ *noun, pl* **-fries** [*count*] : a tower or part of a tower where a bell or set of bells hangs

bats in the/your belfry *informal* + *old-fashioned* ✧ To have *bats in the belfry* or (*chiefly US*) *bats in your belfry* is to be crazy. • an old woman with *bats in her belfry* [=a crazy/batty old woman]

Bel•gian /'bɛlʤən/ *noun, pl* **-gians** [*count*]

1 : a person born, raised, or living in Belgium

2 : a person of Belgian descent

– **Belgian** *adj* • a *Belgian* couple and their children • *Belgian* beer/chocolate/linen

Belgian endive *noun, pl* ~ **-dives** [*count, noncount*] *chiefly US* : the leaves of a chicory plant that has been grown in darkness to make the leaves white instead of green

Belgian waffle *noun, pl* ~ **waffles** [*count*] *chiefly US* : a large waffle that is served usually with fruit and whipped cream

be•lie /bɪ'laɪ/ *verb* **-lies**; **-lied**; **-ly•ing** [+ *obj*] *formal*

1 : to give a false idea of (something) • Her manner and appearance *belie* her age. [=she looks and acts like a much younger person than she really is] • a tree whose delicate beauty *belies* its real toughness

2 : to show (something) to be false or wrong • Their actions *belie* their claim to be innocent.

be•lief /bə'li:f/ *noun, pl* **-liefs**

1 a : a feeling of being sure that someone or something exists or that something is true [*singular*] a heartfelt/deep/deep-seated/firm/strong/passionate *belief* — often + *in* • He says that he is given strength by his *belief in* God. • He has a strong *belief in* his ability to win. [=he is certain that he can win] • His family has an unshakable *belief in* his innocence. — often + *that* • It's my *belief that* the current policy is certain to fail. [=I believe that the current policy is certain to fail] • She bought the rug ***in the belief that*** [=because she believed that] it was a real antique, not a fake. • Many people arrived early ***in the mistaken/erroneous belief that*** [=because they mistakenly believed that] free tickets would be available. • There is a ***growing belief that*** [=an increasing number of people believe that] these policies will not succeed. [*noncount*] There is *growing belief that* these policies will not succeed. • ***Contrary to popular belief***, the economy has actually improved in recent months. [=the economy has improved although many/most people do not think that it has] — compare DISBELIEF **b** [*singular*] : a feeling that something is good, right, or valuable — + *in* • a *belief in* democracy • a judge who had a firm/strong *belief in* judicial restraint **c** [*singular*] : a feeling of trust in the worth or ability of someone — + *in* • He has a strong *belief in* himself. [=he strongly believes that he will succeed]

2 [*count*] : something that a person accepts as true or right : a strongly held opinion about something • He gets angry if anyone challenges his religious/political *beliefs*. • We challenged his *beliefs* about religion. • erroneous/mistaken/false *beliefs* • a system of *beliefs* = a *belief* system — compare UNBELIEF

3 [*noncount*] : the state of being accepted as true : the state of being believed ▪ a story that is ***worthy of belief*** [=a story that deserves to be believed, a believable story] ▪ a story that ***defies belief*** = (*chiefly Brit*) a story that ***beggars belief*** [=an unbelievable story]

beyond belief : not capable of being believed ▪ events that are *beyond belief* [=events that are unbelievable] ▪ She is beautiful *beyond belief*. [=she is unbelievably/extremely beautiful]

to the best of your belief ✧ If you say something is *to the best of your belief*, you mean that it agrees with what you know and believe to be true. ▪ *To the best of my belief* [=(more commonly) *to the best of my knowledge, as far as I know*], everyone arrived on time. [=I think that everyone arrived on time, but it is possible that someone arrived late and I don't know about it]

be•lieve /bə'li:v/ *verb, not used in progressive tenses* **-lieves; -lieved; -liev•ing**

1 [+ *obj*] **a** : to accept or regard (something) as true ▪ The scientists *believed* the reports. ▪ Many people seem to *believe* that theory, but I find it hard/difficult to *believe*. ▪ You shouldn't *believe* everything you read. ▪ I knew that he was a liar and so I didn't *believe* a word he said. [=I didn't believe anything he said] ▪ I did not want to *believe* (that) it could happen. ▪ He says he'll help us, but I don't *believe* what he says. ▪ They were tricked into *believing* that he was a doctor. — opposite DISBELIEVE **b** : to accept the truth of what is said by (someone) ▪ He says he'll help us, but I don't *believe* him. — opposite DISBELIEVE

2 [+ *obj*] : to have (a specified opinion) : THINK ▪ I'm beginning to *believe* (that) this war will never end. ▪ I used to *believe* (that) I was the only one who felt that way but now I know (that) there are others like me. ▪ He clearly/firmly/honestly *believes* (that) it is possible. = He clearly/firmly/honestly *believes* it (to be) possible. ▪ He had reason to *believe* that they would accept his offer. = He had reason for *believing* that they would accept his offer. ▪ She was ***widely believed*** to be guilty. [=many people believed that she was guilty] ▪ We were ***led to believe*** it was true. [=we heard, saw, or read something that made us think it was true] ▪ "Has he accepted the job?" "***I believe so***." = "***So I believe***." ▪ "Has he accepted the job?" "***I believe not***." = "***I don't believe so***."

3 [*no obj*] : to regard the existence of God as a fact : to have religious beliefs ▪ She went to church because her family expected it, but she didn't really *believe*.

4 [*no obj*] : to have trust in the ability, worth, etc., of someone or something ▪ The team hasn't won a championship in many years, but their fans still *believe*. [=their fans still believe in them; their fans still believe that they will win]

5 *informal* — used for emphasis in phrases that express certainty, surprise, annoyance, etc. ▪ "Do you think they can win?" "***You/You'd better believe it***!" [=yes, I definitely think so] ▪ ***Believe me***, he can really play the game. = ***Believe you me***, he can really play the game. ▪ ***I can't believe*** how ugly that dress is. [=what an ugly dress] ▪ You broke the window? ***I can't believe*** you guys! [=I'm annoyed and shocked by what you did] How could you do such a thing? ▪ ***I can't believe*** [=I am amazed/surprised] that that terrible restaurant is still in business. ▪ That terrible restaurant is still in business, ***if you can believe it/that***. ▪ ***Can/Would you believe it***?! That terrible restaurant is still in business. ▪ ***You won't believe*** what I just heard! [=you will be very surprised by what I just heard] ▪ ***You wouldn't believe*** how long it took us to get here. [=it took us a surprisingly long/short time to get here] ▪ ***I don't believe it***! I swept the floor 10 minutes ago, and it's already dirty again! ▪ ***I could not believe*** my good fortune/luck. ▪ It's ***hard to believe*** that he's gone. ▪ His latest movie, ***believe it or not***, is a romantic comedy about a group of lawyers. [=it is surprising but true that his latest movie is a romantic comedy about a group of lawyers] ▪ "I hear that their marriage is in trouble." "***Don't you believe it***! [=that is completely untrue] They're the happiest couple I know!" ▪ "He says he's going to become a doctor." "***If you believe that, you'll believe anything***!" [=it would be very foolish to believe that he is going to become a doctor] ▪ "He says he's going to become a doctor." "***I'll believe that when I see it***!"

believe in [*phrasal verb*] **1** ***believe in (something)*** **a** : to have faith or confidence in the existence of (something) ▪ Do you *believe in* ghosts? **b** : to have trust in the goodness or value of (something) ▪ She *believes in* (the value of) regular exercise. ▪ They *believed in* liberty for all. ▪ I *believe in* working hard to achieve success. ▪ She doesn't *believe in* using pesticides. [=she doesn't believe that it's right to use pesticides; she believes that pesticides do more harm than good] **2** ***believe in (someone)*** : to have trust in the goodness or ability of (someone) ▪ Despite his problems, his parents still *believe in* him. ▪ She *believes in* herself and in her abilities.

can't believe your eyes/ears ✧ If you *can't believe your eyes/ears* or *can hardly/scarcely believe your eyes/ears*, you are very surprised at or upset by what you are seeing or hearing. ▪ I *could hardly believe my eyes* when I saw what he was wearing.

make believe : to act as though something that is not true or real is true or real : PRETEND ▪ When we were children we used to *make believe* (that) we were soldiers fighting in a war. ▪ He isn't really angry, he's just *making believe* (that he is). ▪ They want to *make believe* that everything is all right. — see also MAKE-BELIEVE

seeing is believing ✧ The expression *seeing is believing* means that when you actually see something, you have to believe that it exists or is true. ▪ I didn't think it could happen, but *seeing is believing*. [=I saw it happen, so now I believe it's possible]

– **be•liev•able** /bə'li:vəbəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ The novel's ending is not very *believable*. ▪ His excuse was barely/scarcely *believable*. – **be•liev•ably** /bə'li:vəbli/ *adv* ▪ The characters are all *believably* portrayed. – **be•liev•er** *noun*, *pl* **-ers** [*count*] ▪ a *believer* in religion ▪ devout *believers* ▪ She's a firm/great/strong *believer* in adult education. [=she firmly/strongly believes in the value of adult education; she thinks adult education is very useful and important] ▪ I was doubtful that he could run his own company, but he's ***made a believer out of me***. = He's ***made me a believer***. [=he's convinced me that he can run his own company]

be•lit•tle /bi'lɪtl/ *verb* **-lit•tles; -lit•tled; -lit•tling** [+ *obj*] : to describe (someone or something) as little or unimportant ▪ The critic *belittled* the author's work. ▪ Her detractors are in the habit of *belittling* her accomplishments.

– **belittling** *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ a very *belittling* description ▪ She did not mean to be *belittling* (about her predecessors). – **belittling** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ his *belittling* of his opponents

bell /'bɛl/ *noun, pl* **bells** [*count*]

1 : a hollow usually cup-shaped metal object that makes a ringing sound when it is hit ▪ ring/sound/toll a *bell* ▪ We heard the church *bells* ringing. ▪ The school *bell* clanged. ▪ a dinner *bell* [=a bell that is rung to call people to dinner] ▪ The round ended when the *bell* sounded. ▪ the ***Liberty Bell*** [=a large bell in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, that is a traditional symbol of U.S. freedom] — see also BELLS AND WHISTLES

2 : an electronic device that makes a ringing sound ▪ We rang the *bell* [=*doorbell*] twice, but no one came to answer the door. ▪ Warning/alarm *bells* went off. = Warning/alarm *bells* started to sound/ring. — sometimes used figuratively ▪ (Warning/alarm) *bells* went off (in my head) as I read her letter. [=there was something in her letter that alarmed me]

3 : something (such as a flower) that is shaped like a bell

(as) clear as a bell see ¹CLEAR

(as) sound as a bell see ³SOUND

give (someone) a bell *Brit, informal* : to call someone on the telephone ▪ I'll *give you a bell* [=*give you a call*] tomorrow.

have/get your bell rung ✧ In informal U.S. and Canadian English, if you *have/get your bell rung*, you get hit hard on the head. ▪ The hockey/football player *had his bell rung* during the play.

ring a bell see ³RING

bel•la•don•na /ˌbɛlə'dɑ:nə/ *noun* [*noncount*]

1 : a poisonous plant that has reddish bell-shaped flowers — called also *deadly nightshade*

2 : a drug made from the belladonna plant

bell–bot•toms /'bɛl'bɑ:təmz/ *noun* [*plural*] : pants with legs that become much wider at the bottom ▪ She was wearing (a pair of) *bell-bottoms*. — called also *flares*

– **bell–bottom** *adj* ▪ *bell-bottom* jeans/trousers

bell•boy /'bɛlˌbɔɪ/ *noun, pl* **-boys** [*count*] : BELLHOP

belle /'bɛl/ *noun, pl* **belles** [*count*] *old-fashioned* : a very attractive and popular girl or woman ▪ a Southern *belle* ▪ She was ***the belle of the ball***. [=the most beautiful and popular woman at a dance, party, etc.]

bell•hop /'bɛlˌhɑ:p/ *noun, pl* **-hops** [*count*] *chiefly US* : a boy or man who takes hotel guests to their rooms, carries luggage, etc. — called also *bellboy*

bel•li•cose /ˈbɛlɪˌkoʊs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *formal* : having or showing a tendency to argue or fight ▪ a *bellicose* general ▪ *bellicose* [=*combative*] behavior ▪ *bellicose* language/statements
– **bel•li•cos•i•ty** /ˌbɛlɪˈkɑːsəti/ *noun* [*noncount*]

[1]bel•lig•er•ent /bəˈlɪʤərənt/ *adj*
1 [*more* ~; *most* ~] : angry and aggressive : feeling or showing readiness to fight ▪ a *belligerent* remark ▪ He was drunk and *belligerent*.
2 *always used before a noun, formal* : fighting a war : engaged in a war ▪ *belligerent* nations/states
– **bel•lig•er•ence** /bəˈlɪʤərəns/ *also* **bel•lig•er•en•cy** /bəˈlɪʤərənsi/ *noun* [*noncount*] – **bel•lig•er•ent•ly** *adv*

[2]belligerent *noun, pl* **-ents** [*count*] *formal* : a group or country that is fighting a war ▪ An international group is trying to negotiate a cease-fire between the *belligerents*.

bel•low /ˈbɛloʊ/ *verb* **-lows**; **-lowed**; **-low•ing**
1 : to shout in a deep voice [*no obj*] He *bellowed* at/to/for her to come over at once. ▪ He was *bellowing* into the phone, giving orders to one of his employees. [+ *obj*] The sergeant was *bellowing* orders. ▪ "You're fired!" he *bellowed*.
2 [*no obj*] *of an animal* : to make a deep, loud sound ▪ The bull *bellowed* angrily.
– **bellow** *noun, pl* **-lows** [*count*] ▪ He let loose with an angry *bellow*. ▪ a *bellow* of anger/rage ▪ the *bellow* of a bull

bel•lows /ˈbɛloʊz/ *noun* [*plural*] : a device that produces a strong current of air when its sides are pressed together ▪ the *bellows* of an accordion ✧ *Bellows* is used with both plural and singular verbs. ▪ *Bellows* were used to help start the fire. = A (pair of) *bellows* was used to help start the fire.

bell pepper *noun, pl* ~ **-pers** [*count*] *chiefly US* : a large pepper with a mild flavor ▪ a red/green *bell pepper*

bells and whistles *noun* [*plural*] *informal* : parts and features that are useful or appealing but not essential or necessary : FRILLS ▪ The car was equipped with all the *bells and whistles* you could ask for.

bell•weth•er /ˈbɛlˈwɛðɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : someone or something that leads others or shows what will happen in the future ▪ She is a *bellwether* of fashion. ▪ High-tech *bellwethers* led the decline in the stock market. ▪ a county that is a *bellwether* in national elections

[1]bel•ly /ˈbɛli/ *noun, pl* **bel•lies** [*count*]
1 a : a person's stomach or the part of the body that contains the stomach ▪ My *belly* was full. ▪ He got down on his *belly* to crawl. ▪ They slid down the snowy hill on their *bellies*. ▪ a kick in the *belly* [=*abdomen*] — see also BEER BELLY, POTBELLY **b** : the part of an animal's body that is like a person's belly ▪ a horse's *belly* ▪ a gray squirrel with a white *belly* — see also UNDERBELLY
2 : a curved or rounded surface or part ▪ the *belly* of an airplane ▪ the *belly* of a ship/violin
– **bel•lied** *adj* — used in combination ▪ a red-*bellied* woodpecker — see also YELLOW-BELLIED

[2]belly *verb* **bel•lies**; **bel•lied**; **bel•ly•ing** : to cause (something, such as a sail) to curve or bulge outward [+ *obj*] The wind *bellied* (out) the sails of the ship. [*no obj*] The sails of the ship *bellied* [=*bulged*] out in the wind.
belly up to [*phrasal verb*] ***belly up to (someone or something)*** *US, informal* : to walk to or toward (someone or something) ▪ The men *bellied up to* the bar.

[1]bel•ly•ache /ˈbɛliˌeɪk/ *noun, pl* **-aches** : a pain in the stomach : STOMACHACHE [*count*] He ate too much chili and it gave him a *bellyache*. [*noncount*] (*Brit*) ▪ He ate too much chili and it gave him *bellyache*.

[2]bellyache *verb* **-aches**; **-ached**; **-ach•ing** [*no obj*] *informal* : to complain in an annoying way ▪ He was *bellyaching* about how long it took to get a table at the restaurant.
– **bellyaching** *noun* ▪ I'm tired of listening to his *bellyaching*.

belly button *noun, pl* ~ **-tons** [*count*] *informal* : NAVEL

belly dance *noun, pl* ~ **dances** [*count*] : a type of Middle Eastern dance done by a woman who makes rhythmic movements with her hips and belly
– **belly dance** *verb* ~ **dances**; ~ **danced**; ~ **dancing** [*no obj*] – **belly dancer** *noun, pl* ~ **-ers** [*count*] – **belly dancing** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ taught a class in *belly dancing*

belly flop *noun, pl* ~ **flops** [*count*] *informal* : a poorly done dive in which the front of the body lands flat on the surface of the water ▪ She did a *belly flop* into the pool.
– **belly flop** *verb* ~ **flops**; ~ **flopped**; ~ **flopping** [*no obj*] ▪ She *belly flopped* into the pool.

bel•ly•ful /ˈbɛliˌfʊl/ *noun* [*singular*] *informal* : a large amount of something ▪ The movie provides a *bellyful* of laughs. — often used to express irritation or annoyance ▪ I've ***had a bellyful of*** him and his advice. [=I'm sick of him and his advice; I do not want any more of his advice]

belly laugh *noun, pl* ~ **laughs** [*count*] : a deep and loud laugh ▪ He has an infectious *belly laugh*. ▪ The show provided lots of *belly laughs*.

bel•ly–up /ˈbɛliˈʌp/ *adj*
go belly-up *informal* : to fail completely ▪ The team *went belly-up* in the play-offs. ▪ The business *went belly-up* [=went bankrupt] during the long recession.

be•long /bɪˈlɑːŋ/ *verb* **-longs**; **-longed**; **-long•ing** [*no obj*]
1 — used to say that someone or something should be in a particular place or situation ▪ This book *belongs* [=*goes*] on the top shelf. ▪ Put the groceries away where they *belong*. ▪ Those kids really *belong* in school. [=they should be in school] ▪ Does that item really *belong* on the list? ▪ A dictionary *belongs* in every home. [=every home should have a dictionary] ▪ A sick person *belongs* in bed. ▪ A man with his abilities *belongs* in teaching. [=he should be a teacher] ▪ Whales *belong* among the mammals, not fish. [=whales are mammals, not fish; whales are classified as mammals] ▪ She and her husband are a perfect couple. They *belong* together. ▪ They *belong* with each other.
2 : to be accepted and liked by the other people in a group ▪ She was here for 15 years, but she never really *belonged*.
belong to [*phrasal verb*] **1** ***belong to (someone)*** : to be the property of (someone) : to be owned by (someone) ▪ The money *belongs to* him. [=the money is his] ▪ That watch *belongs to* me. ▪ The house *belongs* not just *to* her, but *to* her husband as well. ▪ His style *belongs* only *to* himself. [=no one else has his style] **2** ***belong to (something)*** **a** : to be a member of (a club, organization, etc.) ▪ The family *belongs to* a country club. ▪ Most of the company's employees *belong to* an HMO. **b** : to be included in (a category, group, etc.) ▪ What family does that bird *belong to*? **c** : to be a part of (something) : to be connected with (something) ▪ the parts *belonging to* the clock
– **belonging** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ The kindness that they showed to her when she first arrived gave her a real sense/feeling of *belonging*.

be•long•ings /bɪˈlɑːŋɪŋz/ *noun* [*plural*] : the things that belong to a person : POSSESSIONS ▪ They gathered their *belongings* and left. ▪ She left a pile of *belongings* next to her chair. ▪ Be sure to take your ***personal belongings*** [=items that are yours and are small enough to be carried] with you when you get off the bus.

be•loved /bɪˈlʌvəd, bɪˈlʌvd/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : very much loved : dearly loved ▪ my own *beloved* grandmother ▪ He is a *beloved* public figure. ▪ an actor *beloved* by/of millions of fans ▪ one of the city's most *beloved* buildings
– **beloved** *noun, pl* **-loveds** [*count*] *literary* ▪ She saw her *beloved* [=the person she loved] approaching. ✧ The phrase ***dearly beloved*** is often used at the beginning of a Christian wedding ceremony to address the people who are there. ▪ *Dearly beloved*, we are gathered here today . . .

[1]be•low /bɪˈloʊ/ *adv*
1 : in or to a lower place ▪ The pencil rolled off the desk and fell to the floor *below*. ▪ The pilot looked down at the sea far *below*. ▪ We heard the elevator stop at the floor *below*. ✧ The opposite of every sense of *below* is *above*.
2 : on or to a lower deck on a ship or boat ▪ They secured the goods on deck and went *below*. ▪ The captain ordered the men *below*. [=ordered them to go below the main deck]
3 : in or to a lower rank or number ▪ All personnel, captain and *below*, were ordered to report for duty. ▪ The game is suitable for children at age 10 and *below*. [=*younger, under*]
4 : lower than zero ▪ The temperature ranged from 5 *below* to 10 above. [=from –5 degrees to 10 degrees Fahrenheit]
5 : lower, further down, or later on the same page or on a following page : at a later point in the same document ▪ The results of the test are discussed/explained/listed/shown *below*. ▪ See the graph *below*.
from below : from a lower place ▪ We heard voices calling *from below*. ▪ I felt a draft *from below*.

[2]below *prep*
1 : in or to a lower place than (something) : BENEATH ▪ Our apartment is *below* theirs. ▪ She wore a skirt that reached *below* her knees. = The bottom of her skirt was *below* her knees. ▪ We could see only clouds *below* us. ▪ The diver descended *below* 25 meters. ▪ The sun disappeared *below* the horizon. ▪ a spot directly *below* us ▪ the valley far *below* us ▪

just/slightly *below* the horizon ✧ The opposite of every sense of *below* is *above*.

2 : lower in number, amount, or size than (something) : less than (something) ▪ Temperatures were *below* average/normal all week. ▪ The game is suitable for children *below* [=*younger than, under*] the age of 10. ▪ She worked for wage rates *below* those of other workers.

3 : less important or powerful than (someone) : having a lower rank than (someone) ▪ A lieutenant is *below* a captain. [=a captain outranks a lieutenant] ▪ He ranks far *below* his superior.

4 : in a lower or less important position than (something) ▪ He puts his own needs *below* his child's needs.

[1]belt /ˈbɛlt/ *noun, pl* **belts** [*count*]

1 : a band of material (such as leather) that is worn around a person's waist ▪ I fastened/unfastened the buckle on my *belt*. = I buckled/unbuckled my *belt*. ▪ I tied the *belt* of my robe. — see color picture on page C14; see also BLACK BELT, GARTER BELT, SAFETY BELT, SEAT BELT

2 : a band that runs around wheels or other parts in a machine and that is used for moving or carrying something — see also FAN BELT

3 : a region that has a lot of a particular thing ▪ a *belt* of hilly land [=an area with many hills] ▪ a storm *belt* ▪ the farm/farming *belt* ▪ the corn/cotton *belt* [=a region with many farms growing corn/cotton] ▪ an asteroid *belt* ▪ (*chiefly US*) cities in the *Rust Belt* [=an area formerly known for industry and manufacturing] — see also BIBLE BELT, SUNBELT

below the belt *informal* : too harsh and unfair ▪ That remark was *below the belt*. = That remark really *hit* (him) *below the belt*. ✧ The phrase *below the belt* comes from the sport of boxing, where it is against the rules to hit your opponent anywhere below the belt.

tighten your belt : to begin to spend less money : to make changes in order to save money ▪ Many companies are *tightening their belts* during the recession. — see also BELT-TIGHTENING

under your belt : as an achievement or as part of your experience ▪ She has a best-selling book *under her belt*. [=she has written a best-selling book] ▪ an actor who has several films *under his belt* [=who has appeared in several films] ▪ He finally has a full year of experience *under his belt*.

– compare [3]BELT

– **belt•ed** /ˈbɛltəd/ *adj* ▪ a *belted* coat/jacket/robe

[2]belt *verb* **belts**; **belt•ed**; **belt•ing**

1 [+ *obj*] : to fasten (something) with a belt ▪ His bathrobe was loosely *belted*.

2 [+ *obj*] *informal* : to hit (someone or something) hard ▪ He *belted* the ball down the fairway. ▪ *belt* a home run ▪ Some drunk got mad and threatened to *belt* me.

3 [+ *obj*] *informal* : to sing (a song) in a loud and forceful way — usually + *out* ▪ a singer *belting out* tunes at the top of her lungs

4 *always followed by an adverb* [+ *obj*] *US, informal* : to drink (something) quickly ▪ He *belted* down a shot of whiskey. ▪ *belting* back a drink

5 *always followed by an adverb or preposition* [*no obj*] *chiefly Brit, informal* : to move or go at a high speed ▪ The car was *belting* down/along the highway.

belt up [*phrasal verb*] *Brit* **1** : to fasten a seat belt in a car or other vehicle ▪ When you're riding in a car, you should always *belt up* [=(*US*) *buckle up*] for safety. **2** *informal* : to stop talking ▪ Will you just *belt up* [=*shut up*] for once?

[3]belt *noun, pl* **belts** [*count*] *informal*

1 : a hard hit ▪ Some drunk got mad and threatened to give me a *belt*. [=*punch*]

2 *US, informal* : a drink of alcohol ▪ He had a few *belts* (of whiskey) before dinner.

– compare [1]BELT

belt•er /ˈbɛltɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] *US, informal* : a singer with a powerful voice : a singer who belts out songs ▪ a legendary blues *belter*

belt–tight•en•ing /ˈbɛltˌtaɪtn̩ɪŋ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a reduction in spending : changes that are made in order to save money ▪ The recession has caused many companies to do some *belt-tightening*. — often used before another noun ▪ a *belt-tightening* measure/move/policy — see also *tighten your belt* at [1]BELT

belt•way /ˈbɛltˌweɪ/ *noun, pl* **-ways**

1 [*count*] *US* : a highway that goes around a city ▪ an urban *beltway* — called also (*Brit*) *orbital*

2 ***the Beltway*** : the political and social world of Washington, D.C. ▪ politics inside *the Beltway* ▪ Her influence extends beyond *the Beltway*.

– **Beltway** *adj, always used before a noun* ▪ *Beltway* politicians/politics [=the politicians/politics of Washington, D.C.]

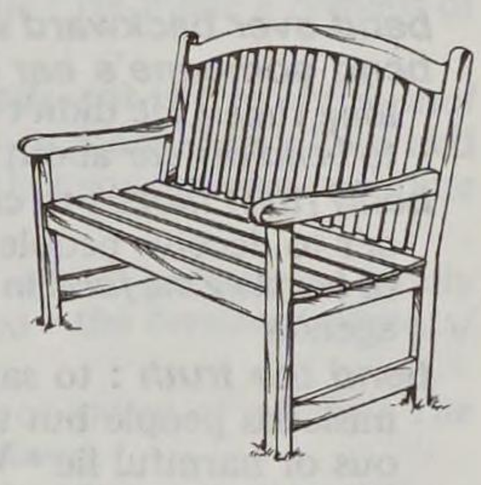
be•moan /bɪˈmoʊn/ *verb* **-moans**; **-moaned**; **-moan•ing** [+ *obj*] : to say that you are unhappy about (something) ▪ He *bemoans* the fact that the team lost again. ▪ an article *bemoaning* the decline in voter turnout : to complain about (something) ▪ Some critics are always *bemoaning* the state of the language.

be•muse /bɪˈmjuːz/ *verb* **-mus•es**; **-mused**; **-mus•ing** [+ *obj*] : to cause (someone) to be confused and often also somewhat amused — usually used as *(be) bemused* ▪ He thought of himself as an ordinary man, and he *was bemused* by all the attention that he was receiving.

– **bemused** *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ She had a *bemused* expression/smile on her face. – **be•mus•ed•ly** /bɪˈmuːzədli/ *adv* ▪ She smiled *bemusedly*. – **be•muse•ment** /bɪˈmjuːzmənt/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ She smiled in/with *bemusement*.

[1]bench /ˈbɛnʧ/ *noun, pl* **bench•es**

1 [*count*] : a long and usually hard seat for two or more people ▪ a park *bench*



bench

2 ***the bench*** *law* **a** : the place where a judge sits in a court of law ▪ The lawyer asked if he could approach *the bench*. **b** : the position or rank of a judge ▪ her recent appointment to *the bench*

3 [*count*] : a long table for holding tools and work ▪ a carpenter's *bench*

4 *sports* **a** ***the bench*** : a long seat where the members of a sports team wait for a chance to play ▪ He spent most of his season on *the bench*. [=he did not play in many games] ▪ He plays better *coming off the bench*. [=coming into the game after it has started] **b** [*count*] *chiefly US* : the players on a team who do not usually play at the start of a game : the reserve players on a team — usually singular ▪ The team's *bench* is deep. = The team has a deep *bench*. [=the team had many good players in addition to its main players] — often used before another noun ▪ a *bench* player [=a reserve player; a player who is part of a team's bench]

[2]bench *verb* **bench•es**; **benched**; **bench•ing** [+ *obj*] *US, sports* : to not allow (a player) to play in a game : to put (a player) on the bench ▪ The manager *benched* one of his most popular players. ▪ He was *benched* for several games by a leg injury. [=he was forced to miss several games because of a leg injury]

bench•mark /ˈbɛnʧˌmɑɚk/ *noun, pl* **-marks** [*count*] : something that can be used as a way to judge the quality or level of other, similar things ▪ a stock whose performance is a *benchmark* against which other stocks can be measured

bench press *noun, pl* ~ **press•es** [*count*] : a lift or exercise in which a weight is raised by pushing your arms upward while you lie on a bench

– **bench–press** *verb* **-press•es**; **-pressed**; **-press•ing** [+ *obj*] ▪ He can *bench-press* 350 pounds.

bench seat *noun, pl* ~ **seats** [*count*] : a long seat in a vehicle (such as a car) that goes across the full width of the passenger section

bench•warm•er /ˈbɛnʧˌwɑɚmɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] *US, sports* : a player who is not among the best players on a team and does not often play : a reserve player who is usually on the bench ▪ I played a little, but mostly I was a *benchwarmer*.

[1]bend /ˈbɛnd/ *verb* **bends**; **bent** /ˈbɛnt/; **bend•ing**

1 a [+ *obj*] : to use force to cause (something, such as a wire or pipe) to become curved ▪ *bend* a wire into a circle ▪ *bend* the cable around a wheel ▪ He *bent* the bow and shot an arrow from it. ▪ His glasses got *bent* when he dropped them. **b** [*no obj*] : to curve out of a straight line or position ▪ The road *bends* [=*curves, turns*] to the left. ▪ The trees were *bending* in the wind. ▪ The branch will *bend* before it breaks. ▪ The branches of the fruit tree were *bending under their own weight*. [=were bending because they were so heavy] — sometimes used figuratively ▪ She refused to *bend* under pressure to change her decision. ▪ a politician accused of *bending to the will* of wealthy supporters [=being influenced

by wealthy supporters; doing the things that are wanted by wealthy supporters]

2 a [*no obj*] : to move your body so that it is not straight ▪ She *bent* down/over/forward to pick up a piece of paper and then she straightened up again. ▪ He *bent* back to look up at the ceiling. ▪ *bend* to the left and then *bend* to the right ▪ *bend* at the waist ▪ He ***bent double*** with pain. [=he bent forward from the waist because he was in extreme pain] **b** [+ *obj*] : to move (part of your body, such as an arm or leg) so that it is not straight ▪ *bend* a knee ▪ *bend* a leg ▪ *bend* an arm ▪ *bend* [=*tilt*] your head ✧ In formal language, if you ***bend yourself to*** or ***bend your strength/energy/efforts (etc.) to/toward*** something (such as a job or task), you work hard in order to do it. ▪ He has *bent himself* [=*applied himself*] *to* the task of making the company more efficient and profitable. ▪ They are *bending their efforts toward* completing the job on time. ▪ They *bent their minds* to [=gave a lot of thought to; thought hard about] the problem.

bend a rule : to not be strict or exact about following a rule ▪ She's not really quite old enough to be admitted as a member, but she's very close, so I think we can *bend the rule(s)* a little in her case and let her in now.

bend over backward see [1]BACKWARD

bend someone's ear *informal* : to talk to someone for a long time ▪ He didn't really care about me, he just wanted to *bend my ear* about his own problems.

bend (the) facts : to change facts in a dishonest way in order to deceive people ▪ a journalist who has been accused of *bending the facts* in order to gain support for his political agenda

bend the truth : to say something that is not true or that misleads people but that is usually not regarded as a serious or harmful lie ▪ When he tells people he's from Manhattan he's *bending the truth* a little since he really grew up in Brooklyn.

on bended knee *also* ***on bended knees*** : in a kneeling position : in the position of someone who is kneeling on one knee ▪ He proposed to her *on bended knee*. = He got down *on bended knee* and proposed to her. — sometimes used figuratively ▪ He was forced to ask for their help *on bended knee*. [=he was forced to beg for their help; he was forced to ask for their help in a very humble way]

[2]bend *noun, pl* **bends**

1 [*count*] : a curved part of something ▪ a *bend* in a road/stream ▪ They live just around/past the next *bend* (in the road). ▪ the graceful *bends* [=curves] of the stairway

2 [*count*] : the act or process of bending something ▪ a quick *bend* of the body ▪ knee *bends*

3 ***the bends*** *medical* : a painful and dangerous condition caused by rising to the surface too quickly after being deep underwater — called also *decompression sickness*

around the bend (*chiefly US*) *or chiefly Brit* ***round the bend*** *informal* **1** : CRAZY ▪ The pressure of his job nearly drove him *around the bend*. ▪ He almost went *around the bend*. ▪ If you ask me, she's completely *round the bend*. **2** *US* : occurring soon ▪ The end of summer is just/right *around the bend*. [=*around the corner*]

– **bendy** /'bɛndi/ *adj* **bend•i•er**; **-est** [*also more ~; most ~*] *chiefly Brit, informal* ▪ a *bendy* [=*flexible*] toy ▪ a *bendy* road [=a road with many curves]

bend•er /'bɛndɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] *informal* : a period when someone gets very drunk ▪ He ***went on a bender*** and was drunk all weekend. — see also FENDER BENDER

[1]be•neath /bɪ'ni:θ/ *adv* : in or to a lower position : BELOW ▪ the mountains and the towns *beneath* ▪ the sky above and the earth *beneath* ▪ an awning with chairs and tables *beneath* ▪ The ground *beneath* is covered with flowers.

[2]beneath *prep*

1 a : in or to a lower position than (something or someone) : BELOW ▪ the sky above us and the earth *beneath* us ▪ just *beneath* the surface of the water ▪ The painting is hanging on the wall with a plaque *beneath* it. — opposite ABOVE **b** : directly under (something or someone) ▪ the ground *beneath* [=*underneath*] her feet ▪ We had a picnic *beneath* a large tree. ▪ The paper was hidden *beneath* a pile of books. ▪ She wore a sweater *beneath* her coat.

2 : not worthy of (someone) : not good enough for (someone) ▪ He won't do any work that he considers *beneath* him. [=work that he thinks is not good enough for a person of his social class] ▪ She refused to marry *beneath* her. [=to marry someone with a lower social standing than hers] — opposite ABOVE

3 : under the pressure or influence of (something) ▪ The chair sagged *beneath* [=*under, underneath*] his weight. [=his weight caused the chair to sag]

4 : hidden under (something) ▪ He has a warm heart *beneath* [=*under, underneath*] his gruff manner.

from beneath : from a place below or under (something) ▪ She gazed at us *from beneath* the brim of her hat.

bene•dic•tion /ˌbɛnə'dɪkʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** : a prayer that asks for God's blessing [*count*] He dismissed the congregation with a *benediction*. [*noncount*] a prayer of *benediction*

ben•e•fac•tor /'bɛnəˌfæktɚ/ *noun, pl* **-tors** [*count*] : someone who helps another person, group, etc., by giving money ▪ With the help of a rich *benefactor* he set up a charity. ▪ an anonymous *benefactor*

ben•e•fac•tress /'bɛnəˌfæktrɪs/ *noun, pl* **-tress•es** [*count*] *somewhat old-fashioned* : a woman who helps another person, group, etc., by giving money : a female benefactor ▪ a wealthy *benefactress*

be•nef•i•cent /bə'nɛfəsənt/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] *formal* : doing or producing good ▪ a *beneficent* leader ▪ a humane and *beneficent* policy

– **be•nef•i•cence** /bə'nɛfəsəns/ *noun* [*noncount*]

ben•e•fi•cial /ˌbɛnə'fɪʃəl/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : producing good or helpful results or effects : producing benefits ▪ He hopes the new drug will prove *beneficial* to/for many people. ▪ Regular exercise has many *beneficial* health effects. ▪ They have a relationship that is *beneficial* to/for both of them. ▪ Some insects are harmful but others are *beneficial*.

– **ben•e•fi•cial•ly** *adv*

ben•e•fi•ci•ary /ˌbɛnə'fɪʃiˌeri, *Brit* ˌbɛnə'fɪʃəri/ *noun, pl* **-ar•ies** [*count*]

1 : a person, organization, etc., that is helped by something : someone or something that benefits from something ▪ Who will be the main *beneficiaries* of these economic reforms? [=who will be helped by these economic reforms?] ▪ The college was a *beneficiary* of the private grant.

2 : a person, organization, etc., that receives money or property when someone dies ▪ Her father named her the *beneficiary* of his life insurance policy. [=she will receive the money from her father's insurance policy if he dies] ▪ She has made the school the sole *beneficiary* of/in her will. [=her will says that all her money and property should go to the school when she dies]

[1]ben•e•fit /'bɛnəˌfɪt/ *noun, pl* **-fits**

1 : a good or helpful result or effect [*count*] the *benefits* of fresh air and sunshine ▪ A *benefit* of museum membership is that purchases are discounted. ▪ There are many financial *benefits* to owning your own home. ▪ She is just now starting to reap/enjoy the *benefits* of all her hard work. ▪ The *benefits* of taking the drug outweigh its risks. [*noncount*] I see no *benefit* in changing the system now. ▪ We're lucky to be able to get the full *benefit* of/from her knowledge. ▪ These changes will be ***of benefit to*** all of you. [=will help/benefit all of you] ▪ These changes will be ***to your benefit***. [=will help you] ▪ I'm not doing it for myself; I'm doing it ***for your benefit***. [=to help you; for your sake] ▪ Since he owns the land, he thinks he should be free to use it ***for his own benefit***. [=in a way that is helpful to him]

2 a : money that is paid by a company (such as an insurance company) or by a government when someone dies, becomes sick, stops working, etc. [*count*] He began collecting his retirement *benefits* when he was 65. ▪ a disability *benefit* ▪ (*Brit*) a family ***on benefits*** [=(*US*) *on welfare*; receiving money from the government because of a low income or lack of income] [*noncount*] He began collecting his retirement *benefit* when he was 65. ▪ (*Brit*) He is on housing/unemployment *benefit*. — see also CHILD BENEFIT, DEATH BENEFIT, SICKNESS BENEFIT **b** [*count*] : something extra (such as vacation time or health insurance) that is given by an employer to workers in addition to their regular pay : FRINGE BENEFIT ▪ The company provides health (insurance) *benefits*. ▪ The job doesn't pay much, but the *benefits* are good. — often used before another noun ▪ a company with a good *benefit* plan/package/program

3 [*count*] : a social event to raise money for a person or cause ▪ The school is having/holding a *benefit* to raise money for a new gymnasium. ▪ a charity *benefit* — often used before another noun ▪ a *benefit* concert/dinner/event/performance

have the benefit of : to be helped by (something) : to be able to use (something) ▪ Her judgment will be better when she *has the benefit of* more experience.

the benefit of the doubt ✧ When people give you *the bene-*

fit of the doubt, they treat you as someone who is honest or deserving of trust even though they are not sure that you really are. ▪ He might be lying, but we have to give him *the benefit of the doubt* and accept what he says for now.

without the benefit of *or US* ***without benefit of*** : without the help of (something or someone) ▪ The band had to perform *without benefit of* a rehearsal. ▪ He was able to learn a great deal *without the benefit of* formal schooling. ▪ You shouldn't try to handle this problem *without benefit of* a lawyer. ▪ They lived together ***without (the) benefit of marriage***. [=without being married]

with the benefit of : with the help of (something) : by using (something) ▪ *With the benefit of* hindsight, he saw where he had made a mistake. ▪ She'll do better *with the benefit of* more experience.

[2]benefit *verb* **-fits**; **-fit•ed** *also* **-fit•ted**; **-fit•ing** *also* **-fit•ting**
1 [+ *obj*] : to be useful or helpful to (someone or something) ▪ The new plan may *benefit* many students. ▪ medicines that *benefit* thousands of people ▪ These changes will *benefit* all of you. = All of you will be *benefited* by these changes. ▪ The politician held a fund-raiser to *benefit* his campaign. ▪ Some critics say that the tax cuts only *benefit* wealthy people.
2 [*no obj*] : to be helped ▪ He'll *benefit* by having experiences I never did. — often + *from* ▪ I *benefited from* the experience. ▪ Many patients will *benefit from* the new drug. ▪ All of you will *benefit from* these changes. ▪ Some critics say that only wealthy people will *benefit from* the tax cuts.

be•nev•o•lent /bə'nɛvələnt/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]
1 : kind and generous ▪ a *benevolent* company/government ▪ a gift from a *benevolent* donor
2 : organized to do good things for other people ▪ He belonged to several *benevolent* societies and charitable organizations.
– **be•nev•o•lence** /bə'nɛvələns/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ The king's *benevolence* [=*kindness*, *generosity*] was known throughout the land. – **be•nev•o•lent•ly** *adv*

Ben•gali /bɛn'gɑ:li/ *noun, pl* **-gal•is**
1 [*count*] : a person born or living in Bangladesh or in a state in northeastern India called West Bengal
2 [*noncount*] : a language spoken in Bangladesh and West Bengal
– **Bengali** *adj* ▪ *Bengali* literature

be•night•ed /bɪ'naɪtəd/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *formal* : having no knowledge or education ▪ These *benighted* [=*ignorant*, *unenlightened*] souls/people have so much to learn. ▪ a strange, *benighted* country

be•nign /bɪ'naɪn/ *adj*
1 *medical* **a** : not causing death or serious injury ▪ a *benign* infection/disease **b** : without cancer : not cancerous ▪ *benign* brain tumors ▪ We were happy to hear that the tumor was *benign*. — opposite MALIGNANT
2 : not causing harm or damage ▪ This chemical is environmentally *benign*. [=it does not hurt the environment] ▪ He has a *benign* [=*harmless*] habit of biting his fingernails.
3 [*more* ~; *most* ~] : mild and pleasant ▪ *benign* [=*favorable*] weather conditions ▪ a *benign* climate
4 [*more* ~; *most* ~] : gentle and kind ▪ a friendly, *benign* teacher
5 [*more* ~; *most* ~] : having or showing a belief that nothing bad will happen ▪ She takes a *benign* view of her husband's spending habits. [=she does not worry about her husband's spending habits]
– **be•nign•ly** *adv* ▪ He smiled *benignly* at his students.

[1]bent /bɛnt/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]
1 : having a shape that is changed by bending : not straight ▪ a *bent* metal wire ▪ *bent* arms/elbows ▪ With your knees/legs slightly *bent*, bend forward and touch your toes. ▪ He was ***bent double*** with pain. [=he was bending forward from the waist because he was in extreme pain]
2 *chiefly Brit, informal* : not honest ▪ a *bent* [=*corrupt*] cop
bent on *also* ***bent upon*** : having a strong desire to do (something) ▪ The doctors are *bent on* finding a cure. [=they are determined to find a cure] ▪ She now seems *bent on* winning the competition. ▪ They're *bent upon* destroying the world. — see also HELL-BENT
bent out of shape *US, informal* : very angry or unhappy ▪ Don't get all *bent out of shape* [=*upset*]. Nothing bad happened!

[2]bent *noun, pl* **bents** [*count*] : an attraction to or an interest in a particular thing or activity ▪ an organization with a strong religious *bent* : a natural talent or interest ▪ students with a creative/scientific *bent* [=*leaning*]

[3]bent *past tense and past participle of* [1]BEND

be•numb /bɪ'nʌm/ *verb* **-numbs**; **-numbed**; **-numb•ing** [+ *obj*] *formal* : to make (someone) numb or unable to have emotions — usually used as *benumbed* ▪ After years of war, they had become *benumbed* [=*numb*] to violence. [=violence no longer caused them to feel strong emotions]

ben•zene /'bɛn,zi:n/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a liquid chemical that is used to make plastics, fuel for automobiles, and other substances

be•queath /bɪ'kwi:θ, bɪ'kwi:ð/ *verb* **-queaths**; **-queathed**; **-queath•ing** [+ *obj*] *formal*
1 : to say in a will that (your property) will be given to (a person or organization) after you die ▪ I *bequeath* this ring to my sister. = I *bequeath* my sister this ring. ▪ He *bequeathed* his paintings to the museum.
2 : to give (ideas, knowledge, etc.) to (younger people) as part of their history ▪ These stories were *bequeathed* [=*handed down*, *passed down*] to us by our ancestors. ▪ Lessons of the past are *bequeathed* to future generations.

be•quest /bɪ'kwɛst/ *noun, pl* **-quests** [*count*] : the property or money that you promise in your will to give to another person or organization after you die ▪ He made a *bequest* of his paintings to the museum.

be•rate /bɪ'reɪt/ *verb* **-rates**; **-rat•ed**; **-rat•ing** [+ *obj*] *formal* : to yell at (someone) : to criticize (someone) in a loud and angry way ▪ She *berated* [=*scolded*] her son for coming home late.

be•reaved /bɪ'ri:vd/ *adj, formal* : sad because a family member or friend has recently died ▪ the *bereaved* parents/families of the victims
the bereaved : a bereaved person or group of people ▪ The minister tried to comfort *the bereaved*.

be•reave•ment /bɪ'ri:vmənt/ *noun, pl* **-ments** *formal*
1 [*noncount*] : the state of being sad because a family member or friend has recently died ▪ a period of *bereavement*
2 : the death of a family member or friend [*noncount*] a period of grief after *bereavement* [*count*] people who have recently suffered *bereavements*

be•reft /bɪ'rɛft/ *adj* : sad because a family member or friend has died ▪ the young soldier's *bereft* [=(more commonly) *bereaved*] mother
bereft of : not having (something that is needed, wanted, or expected) ▪ They appear to be completely *bereft of* new ideas. [=to be completely without new ideas] ▪ He was *bereft of* all hope. ▪ a man *bereft of* reason

be•ret /bə'reɪ/ *noun, pl* **-rets** [*count*] : a round hat with a tight band around the head and a top that is flat, soft, and loose — see picture at HAT

berk /'bɚk/ *noun, pl* **berks** [*count*] *Brit slang* : a stupid or foolish person ▪ He was acting like a complete *berk*.

berm /'bɚm/ *noun, pl* **berms** [*count*] *chiefly US* : a small hill or wall of dirt or sand ▪ A landscaped *berm* [=a hill decorated with plants and flowers] separates the two roads.

Ber•mu•da shorts /bɚ'mju:də-/ *noun* [*plural*] : short pants that reach down to the knees

ber•ry /'beri/ *noun, pl* **-ries** [*count*] : a small fruit (such as a strawberry, blueberry, or raspberry) that has many small seeds

ber•serk /bɚ'sɚk, bɚ'zɚk/ *adj* : crazy and violent especially because of anger ▪ *berserk* behavior
go berserk **1** : to become very angry, crazy, and violent ▪ A worker *went berserk* and killed his boss. **2** : to become very excited ▪ The crowd was *going berserk*. [=*going wild*]

[1]berth /'bɚθ/ *noun, pl* **berths** [*count*]
1 : a place to sleep on a ship, train, etc. ▪ a comfortable cabin with a deep *berth* ▪ an upper/lower *berth*
2 : a place in the water near the shore where a ship stops and stays
3 *chiefly US* : a place or position on a team ▪ She won an Olympic *berth*. = She earned a *berth* on her country's Olympic team. ▪ He has a starting *berth* on the all-star team.
give (someone or something) a wide berth : to avoid or stay away from (someone or something) ▪ I could see that she was in a bad mood, so I *gave her a wide berth*.

[2]berth *verb* **berths**; **berthed**; **berth•ing** : to bring (a ship) into a place where it can stop and stay : to bring (a ship) into a berth [+ *obj*] The ship was *berthed* at this pier. [*no obj*] The ship *berthed* at this pier.

be•seech /bɪ'si:ʧ/ *verb* **-seech•es**; **-sought** /bɪ'sɑt/ *or* **-seeched**; **-seech•ing** [+ *obj*] *formal* + *literary* : to beg (someone) for something : to ask (someone) in a serious and

emotional way to do something ▪ I *beseech* you, let me live! [=please, don't kill me] ▪ Oh, kind and gracious king, we *beseech* [=*implore*, *entreat*] you to set us free!
– **beseeching** *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ She gave the king a *beseeching* look. – **be•seech•ing•ly** *adv*

be•set /bɪ'sɛt/ *verb* **-sets**; **-set**; **-set•ting** [+ *obj*] : to cause problems or difficulties for (someone or something) ▪ A lack of money is the greatest problem *besetting* the city today. — usually used as *(be) beset* ▪ He *was beset* by/with injuries this season. [=he suffered many injuries this season] ▪ a city *beset* by/with economic problems

besetting sin *noun, pl* ~ **sins** [*count*] : a main or constant problem or fault ▪ My *besetting sin* is a fondness for sweets.

be•side /bɪ'saɪd/ *prep*
1 : by the side of (someone or something) : next to (someone or something) ▪ She sat *beside* him during dinner. ▪ The man *beside* her was wearing a brown suit and hat. ▪ They were walking *beside* me. ▪ Stand *beside* the statue and I'll take your picture. ▪ Their house is *beside* a small lake.
2 : in comparison with (something) ▪ These problems seem unimportant *beside* the potential benefits of the new system.
beside the point : not related to the main idea that is being discussed : not important ▪ No one knows what we did, but that's *beside the point*. What we did was wrong.
beside yourself : not thinking clearly because you are feeling very strong emotions : in a state of extreme excitement ▪ We were *beside ourselves* with anger/worry/embarrassment/joy. ▪ He was *beside himself* [=very upset] after hearing the bad news.

[1]be•sides /bɪ'saɪdz/ *prep*
1 : other than (someone or something) ▪ There's no one here *besides* [=*except*] me. ▪ Nothing *besides* [=*but*] a miracle could save them now. ▪ The traffic was a little heavy but, *besides* [=*except for*] that, we had no problems getting here.
2 : in addition to (something) ▪ She wants to learn other languages *besides* English and French. ▪ *Besides* its famous cakes, the bakery also makes delicious breads and cookies. ▪ These salads are delicious *besides* being healthy. ▪ I'm not ready to get married yet. *Besides* which, I enjoy living alone.

[2]besides *adv*
1 : as well : ALSO ▪ They serve pasta and many other foods *besides*.
2 : in addition to what has been said ▪ The play is excellent, and *besides* [=(more formally) *furthermore*, *moreover*], the tickets don't cost much. ▪ I'm not ready to get married yet. *Besides*, I enjoy living alone.

be•siege /bɪ'si:ʤ/ *verb* **-sieg•es**; **-sieged**; **-sieg•ing** [+ *obj*]
1 : to surround a city, building, etc., with soldiers and try to take control of it ▪ The army *beseiged* the castle.
2 : to gather around (someone) in a way that is aggressive, annoying, etc. — usually used as *(be) besieged* ▪ They *were besieged* by reporters while leaving the courthouse. ▪ politicians *being besieged* by the media
3 : to overwhelm (someone) *with* too many questions or requests for things ▪ Customers have *besieged* the company *with* questions. — usually used as *(be) besieged* ▪ Every day, her office *is besieged* [=*bombarded*] *with* letters/questions/complaints about the problem.

be•smirch /bɪ'smərʧ/ *verb* **-smirch•es**; **-smirched**; **-smirch•ing** [+ *obj*] : to cause harm or damage to (the reputation of someone or something) ▪ He has *besmirched* [=*sullied*] her reputation/name/honor by telling lies about her. [=he has caused people to have a low opinion of her]

be•sot•ted /bɪ'sɑ:təd/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : loving someone or something so much that you cannot think clearly ▪ her *besotted* lover ▪ He was completely *besotted* with/by her. [=infatuated with her]

be•speak /bɪ'spi:k/ *verb* **-speaks**; **-spoke** /bɪ'spoʊk/; **-spo•ken** /bɪ'spoʊkən/; **-speak•ing** [+ *obj*] *formal* : to be evidence of (something) : to be a sign of (something) ▪ Her newest album *bespeaks* a great talent for writing songs.

be•spec•ta•cled /bɪ'spɛktəkəld/ *adj* : wearing glasses ▪ a *bespectacled* student

be•spoke /bɪ'spoʊk/ *adj* : made to fit a particular person : CUSTOM-MADE ▪ a *bespoke* suit; *also* : producing clothes that are made to fit a particular person ▪ a *bespoke* tailor

[1]best /'bɛst/ *adj, superlative form of* [1]GOOD *or of* [2]WELL
1 a : better than all others in quality or value ▪ You should wear your *best* clothes tonight. ▪ He took us to the (very) *best* restaurants in the city. ▪ We ate the *best* food and drank the *best* wines. ▪ You're our *best* customers. ▪ His modesty and sense of humor are his *best* qualities. ▪ Is that your *best* offer? ▪ I've had the *best* time with you! [=I've had a very enjoyable time with you] ▪ The *best* [=most valuable] things in life are free. ▪ Which of these do you think tastes *best*? ▪ Mary sends you her very *best* wishes/regards. ▪ He's my ***best friend***. [=my closest/dearest friend] = He and I are ***best friends***. **b** : most skillful, talented, or successful ▪ She's the *best* student in her class. ▪ He won the award for *best* actor in a drama. ▪ the team's *best* player
2 : most appropriate, useful, or helpful ▪ She truly believes that this is the *best* way to solve the problem. ▪ She's the team's *best* hope/chance for a medal. ▪ She thought waiting was *best*. = She thought that the *best* thing to do was to wait. = She thought that it was *best* to wait. ▪ It's *best* to leave early if you want to be sure of arriving on time. ▪ We want to do what's *best* for you. ▪ He's the *best* man for the job. ▪ You should do whatever you think is the *best* thing to do. = You should do whatever you ***think best***. ▪ We're making the ***best possible*** use of these materials.
best of all ✧ The phrase *best of all* is often used to refer to the most important or appealing part of something that has many good parts. ▪ The machine is easy to use, easy to clean, and *best of all*, it's absolutely free when you order these books.
next best ✧ A person or thing that is *next best* is not as good as the best person or thing but is better than all others. ▪ The shortstop is the best player on the team, and the catcher is the *next best* player. ▪ We can't see each other often, but calling each other on the telephone is ***the next best thing***.
on your best behavior ✧ If you are *on your best behavior* you are behaving very politely and well. ▪ Remember to be *on your best behavior* with your grandmother. ▪ The children promised to be *on their best behavior*.

[2]best *adv, superlative form of* [1]WELL
1 : in the best way : in a way that is better than all others ▪ The sauce is *best* served/eaten/enjoyed cold. ▪ His cooking is *best* described as spicy. = It can *best* be described as spicy. : with the most success or benefit ▪ They work *best* under pressure. ▪ That's what we do *best*! ▪ We need to think about how *best* to fix this problem. ▪ This is a job *best* left to the professionals. [=it's better/best to allow professional workers to do this job] ▪ Some things are *best* left unsaid. [=it's better/best not to talk about some things]
2 : to the greatest degree or extent : MOST ▪ That's the one we liked (the) *best*. ▪ The work should be done by the people who are *best* able to do it. ▪ She's *best* suited to life in the city. ▪ He is *best* known for his invention of the lightbulb. ▪ The museum features some of the *best*-known examples of this style of painting. ▪ the industry's *best*-kept secret
as best you can *or* ***the best (that) you can*** : as well, skillfully, or accurately as you can ▪ She answered their questions *as best she could*. [=as well as she could] ▪ You don't have to do it perfectly. Just do it *the best you can*.
had best ✧ If you *had best* do something, you should do it. ▪ *You'd best* get ready for school. [=you'd better get ready for school; you should get ready for school] ▪ *Had*n't you *best* get ready for school?

[3]best *noun* [*singular*]
1 ***the best*** : the best person or thing ▪ Out of all of my workers, he's *the best*. ▪ Our company is *the best* in the business. ▪ Thanks, Dad. You're *the best*! ▪ I have one more gift for you, and I saved *the best* for last. : the best group of people or things ▪ Our store sells nothing but *the best*. = We sell only *the best*. [=the best products] ▪ She's one of *the best* in the world. = She's among *the best*. ▪ Bad things happen to *the best* of us. ▪ They want *the best* for their children. ▪ Even in *the best* of times, we had trouble paying our bills. ▪ In *the best* of all possible worlds, no one would be without food and clean water. ▪ He can compete ***with the best of them***. [=he can compete as well as anyone] ▪ We were ***the best of friends***. [=we were very good friends] ▪ I have a wonderful family and a great job, so I feel that I have ***the best of both worlds***. ▪ Problems can occur even in/under ***the best of circumstances***. [=even if the situation is as good as possible] ▪ All of the students are good, but these three are ***the best of the bunch***. [=the best ones in the group] — see also SUNDAY BEST
2 : someone's or something's most effective, capable, or successful condition — used in phrases like ***at your best*** and ***at its best*** ▪ He's *at his best* in front of a live audience. ▪ She's *at her best* in the morning. ▪ This is democracy *at its best*.
3 : the highest level that you can do or achieve ▪ Was that your *best*? = Was that the *best* you could do? ▪ No one ex-

pects you to do the job perfectly. Just ***do your best***. = Just ***do the best you can***. [=do as well as you can] • He *did his best* to help them. • Her time in the race was a ***personal best***. [=it was the fastest time she had ever achieved]

(all) for the best : having or producing a better result — used to say that something will have a good result even though it was not the intended result • I won't be able to go, but maybe it's *all for the best*. I have a lot of work to do anyway.

(all) the best ✧ If you wish someone *(all) the best*, you hope that person will be happy and successful. • We wish you *all the best* in your new job.

at best — used to refer to a result, condition, etc., that is the best one possible even though it is not very good • The company won't make a profit this year. *At best*, they'll break even. • The work won't be finished for another three months *at best*.

best of luck see ¹LUCK

best (out) of three (five, seven, etc.) — used to say that the winner of a series of games will be the one who has won the most times after three (five, seven, etc.) games have been played

bring out the best in ✧ If someone or something *brings out the best in you*, that person or thing helps you to use or show your best qualities. • She seems to *bring out the best in him*. • Performing in front of an audience *brings out the best in me*. [=I perform better when I am in front of an audience]

feel your best : to feel very healthy • Exercise helps you look and *feel your best*. • I'm not *feeling my best* this morning. [=I'm not feeling very well this morning]

get the best of ✧ If an emotion or feeling *gets the best of you*, it causes you to do something that you should not do or that you are trying not to do. • I did get a little carried away. I guess the excitement *got the best of me*. [=*got the better of me*] • Their emotions have *gotten the best of them*.

know best *or* ***know what's best*** see ¹KNOW

look your best : to look very good : to look as attractive and pleasant as possible • Try to *look your best* when interviewing for a job.

make the best of **1** : to use (something) in an effective way • We may not get another chance, so we need to *make the best of* this opportunity. **2** : to deal with (a bad situation) as well as possible • Life is not very good right now—but let's try to ***make the best of it***. • We're trying to ***make the best (out) of a bad situation***. = (*Brit*) We're trying to ***make the best of a bad job***.

the best is yet to come/be — used to say that good things have happened but that even better things will happen in the future • Life is good now, but *the best is yet to come*.

to the best of my knowledge see KNOWLEDGE

to the best of your ability : as well as you are able to • Every game, we go out and play *to the best of our ability*.

to the best of your belief see BELIEF

⁴best *verb* **bests**; **best•ed**; **best•ing** [+ *obj*] : to do better than (someone or something) : to defeat or outdo (someone or something) • They were *bested* [=*beaten*] by their opponents in the opening game.

bes•tial /'bɛstʃəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *formal* : resembling or suggesting an animal or beast : very cruel, violent, etc. • *bestial* behavior • *bestial* violence

bes•ti•al•i•ty /ˌbɛstʃi'æləti/ *noun* [*noncount*]
1 : sex between a person and an animal
2 *formal* : a cruel and violent quality : a bestial quality • I was shocked by the *bestiality* of their behavior.

best man *noun* [*singular*] : the most important male friend or relative who helps a groom at his wedding • The groom asked his brother to be his *best man* and the bride asked her sister to be her maid of honor.

be•stow /bɪ'stoʊ/ *verb* **-stows**; **-stowed**; **-stow•ing** [+ *obj*] *formal* : to give (something) as a gift or honor • The university *bestowed* on/upon her an honorary degree.

be•strew /bɪ'struː/ *verb* **-strews**; **-strewed**; **-strewn** *or* **-strewed**; **-strew•ing** [+ *obj*] : to cover (a surface) with something — usually used as *(be) bestrewn* • The path *was bestrewn* with flowers. [=flowers were strewed over the path]

be•stride /bɪ'straɪd/ *verb* **-strides**; **-strode** /-'stroʊd/; **-strid•den** /-'strɪdn̩/; **-strid•ing** [+ *obj*] *literary* : to sit or stand with one leg on either side of (something) : STRADDLE • a giant that *bestrode* the river — often used figuratively • the time when the Roman Empire *bestrode* the world [=had great power over the world]

best seller *noun, pl* ~ **-ers** [*count*] : a popular product (such as a book) that many people have bought • She has written several *best sellers*. • Her book is on the *best-seller* list.
– **best–sell•ing** /'bɛst'sɛlɪŋ/ *adj* • his *best-selling* novel

¹bet /'bɛt/ *noun, pl* **bets**
1 [*count*] : an agreement in which people try to guess what will happen and the person who guesses wrong has to give something (such as money) to the person who guesses right • He has a *bet* on the game. • "I'll bet five dollars that my team will beat your team." "Okay. It's a *bet*!" [=I agree to the bet] • He made a *bet* with his brother that he could finish his chores first. • He and his brother have a *bet* about who can finish his chores first. • He lost the *bet* and had to pay his brother five dollars. • His brother won the *bet*. • He paid his brother five dollars to ***settle the bet***.
2 [*count*] : the money or other valuable thing that you could win or lose in a bet • What's your *bet*? [=how much money do you want to risk?] • She placed/laid a $10 *bet* [=*wager*] on the number five horse.
3 [*singular*] : a choice made by thinking about what will probably happen • It's ***a good/safe/sure bet*** that they'll win. [=it is very likely that they will win] • I don't know what their decision will be, but ***my bet is*** that they'll approve the project. [=I think they'll approve the project] • If you want to get there early, your ***best/surest/safest bet*** is to take a different road. [=you are most likely to get there early if you take a different road]

all bets are off — used to describe a situation in which it is impossible to be sure about what will happen • *All bets are off* on the election: it's too close to call.

hedge your bets see ²HEDGE

²bet *verb* **bets**; **bet** *also* **bet•ted**; **bet•ting**
1 : to make a bet : to risk losing something (such as money) if your guess about what will happen is wrong [+ *obj*] He *bet* $5 on the game. • I'll *bet* (you) a dollar that he makes the next shot. • I'll *bet* that he makes the next shot. • He always *bets* that the favorite will win. [*no obj*] He lost a lot of money by ***betting on*** college football and basketball. • He always *bets on* the favorite (to win). • I ***bet against*** the favorite and I lost. • I wouldn't *bet against* her. She's very likely to win this race.
2 [+ *obj*] : to risk losing (something) when you try to do or achieve something — usually + *on* • She's willing to *bet* [=*gamble*, *risk*, *stake*] everything *on* winning this election. • (*US, informal*) They want to start their own restaurant, but they're not willing to ***bet the farm on it***. [=they're not willing to risk losing everything they have]
3 [+ *obj*] : to make decisions that are based on the belief that something will happen or is true • Carmakers are *betting* that people will want to buy larger, more expensive cars this year. • We're *betting* (that) the price of houses will drop.
4 [+ *obj*] *informal* : to think that something will probably or certainly happen • I *bet* (that) it'll rain tomorrow. [=I think it'll rain tomorrow] • You can *bet* (that) he'll take the money. [=you can be sure that he'll take the money] • She says she'll quit her job, but I *bet* (you) she doesn't do it. [=I don't believe that she'll do it] : to think that something is probably or certainly true • I'd *bet* most people feel the same way. • I *bet* you that no one knows we're here. • I'll *bet* you've never seen one of these before. [=you've probably never seen one of these before] • I *bet* you were tired by the end of the trip. [=you must have been tired] • "He was so handsome in his new suit." "***I bet*** he was." = "***I'll bet*** he was." [=I'm sure he was] ✧ If you would ***bet your life*** or ***bet your bottom dollar*** that something will happen or that something is true, you are very sure about it. • "Are you sure he'll be there?" "Yes, I'd *bet my life* on it." [=I am entirely sure] • You can *bet your bottom dollar* he's going to be late! [=you can be sure he's going to be late]
5 *informal* — used in phrases like ***you bet***, ***you can bet on it***, and ***you bet your life*** as an enthusiastic way of saying "yes" • "Would you like some cake?" "*You bet*!" • "Are you going to be there?" "*You bet* I'll be there!" [=I'll certainly be there] • "Are you going to be there?" "*You can bet on it*!" • "Will you be there?" "*You bet your life* I will!" — see also BETCHA
6 *informal* — used in phrases that express doubt about what will happen • "The economy will improve next year." "***I wouldn't bet on it*** if I were you." [=I'm doubtful that the economy will improve next year] • "The weather will be better tomorrow." "***Don't bet on it***!" • "The weather will be better tomorrow." "***Do you want to bet***?" = "***Wanna bet***?" [=I don't think that the weather will be better tomorrow]
– **betting** *adj* • I'm not a *betting* man myself. [=I'm not a man who likes to bet] – **betting** *noun* [*noncount*] • No *bet-*

ting [=*gambling*] is allowed in this state. ▪ (*chiefly Brit*) The *betting* is that she'll win the election. [=most people think that she'll win the election]

be•ta /'beɪtə, *Brit* 'bi:tə/ *noun*
1 [*singular*] : the second letter of the Greek alphabet — B or *β*
2 [*noncount*] : a version of a product (such as a computer program) that is almost finished and that is used for testing ▪ a program that is currently in *beta* — often used before another noun ▪ the *beta* version of the software ▪ a *beta* test ▪ *beta* testing

be•ta–block•er /'beɪtə,blɑ:kɚ, *Brit* 'bi:tə,blɒkə/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] *medical* : a drug that helps prevent heart attacks by lowering high blood pressure

be•ta–car•o•tene /'beɪtə'kerə,ti:n/ *noun* [*noncount*] *technical* : a natural substance that is found in dark green and dark yellow fruits and vegetables and that helps your body grow and be healthy

bet•cha /'bɛʧə/ *informal* — used in writing to represent the sound of the phrase *bet you* when it is spoken quickly ▪ *Betcha* I get home before you do! [=(I'll) bet you that I get home before you do] — used especially in the phrase ***you betcha*** as an enthusiastic way of saying "yes" ▪ "Are you going to be there?" "*You betcha*!" [=*you bet*]

be•tel /'bi:tl/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the dried leaves of a climbing plant that are chewed by some people in southeastern Asia

betel nut *noun, pl* ~ **nuts** [*count*] : the seed of an Asian tree that is chewed with betel by some people in southeastern Asia

bête noire /,bɛt'nwɑɚ/ *noun, pl* **bêtes noires** /,bɛt'nwɑɚz/ [*count*] : a person or thing that someone dislikes very much ▪ a politician who is the *bête noire* of liberal/conservative groups ✧ *Bête noire* is a French phrase that means "black beast."

be•tide /bɪ'taɪd/ see *woe betide* at WOE

be•to•ken /bɪ'toʊkən/ *verb* **-kens**; **-kened**; **-ken•ing** [+ *obj*] *formal* : to show (something) : to be a sign of (something) ▪ His strong handshake *betokens* [=*indicates, bespeaks*] his self-confidence.

be•tray /bɪ'treɪ/ *verb* **-trays**; **-trayed**; **-tray•ing** [+ *obj*]
1 : to give information about (a person, group, country, etc.) to an enemy ▪ They *betrayed* their country by selling its secrets to other governments. ▪ He was *betrayed* (to the authorities) by one of his students.
2 : to hurt (someone who trusts you, such as a friend or relative) by not giving help or by doing something morally wrong ▪ She is very loyal and would never *betray* a friend. ▪ He *betrayed* his wife with another woman. [=he was unfaithful to his wife] ▪ She *betrayed* her own people by supporting the enemy. ▪ I felt *betrayed*. [=I was hurt because someone betrayed me] ▪ You've ***betrayed our trust*** [=we trusted you, but you did something very bad and hurt us] ▪ I can't believe you lied to me. I feel as if you've ***betrayed our friendship*** [=you've betrayed me; you've treated me in a way that shows you are not really my friend]
3 a : to show (something, such as a feeling or desire) without wanting or trying to ▪ Although he would not smile, his eyes *betrayed* his happiness. [=his eyes showed that he was happy] ▪ She coughed, *betraying* her presence behind the door. ▪ The expression on his face ***betrayed nothing*** [=the expression on his face did not show anything about what he was feeling or thinking] **b** : to reveal (something that should not be revealed) ▪ *betray* a secret
4 : to do something that does not agree with (your beliefs, principles, etc.) ▪ He felt that he would be *betraying* his principles if he accepted the money.

– **be•tray•al** /bɪ'trejəl/ *noun, pl* **-als** [*count*] She divorced her husband after his *betrayal* (of her). [=after he had betrayed her] ▪ He felt that accepting the money would be a *betrayal* of his principles. [*noncount*] acts of *betrayal* ▪ feelings of anger, helplessness, and *betrayal* – **be•tray•er** /bɪ'trejɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] ▪ a *betrayer* of his people

be•troth•al /bɪ'troʊðəl/ *noun, pl* **-als** [*count*] *formal + old-fashioned*
1 : the act of promising to marry someone : ENGAGEMENT ▪ They kept their *betrothal* a secret. [=they told no one that they were engaged to be married]
2 : an agreement that two people will be married in the future ▪ They were both young at the time of their *betrothal*.

[1]be•trothed /bɪ'troʊðd/ *adj, formal + old-fashioned* : engaged to be married ▪ a *betrothed* couple ▪ She had been *betrothed* to the prince since she was a young girl.

[2]betrothed *noun* [*singular*] *formal + old-fashioned* : the person that someone has promised to marry ▪ He spent the afternoon with his *betrothed*. [=*fiancée*]

[1]bet•ter /'bɛtɚ/ *adj, comparative form of* [1]GOOD *or of* [2]WELL
1 : higher in quality ▪ Her second book is *better* than her first one. ▪ This is one of the *better* [=*best*] restaurants in this part of town. ▪ Her first book was good, but her second one is ***even better***. = Her second one is ***better still/yet*** ▪ This one is ***no better*** than that one.
2 : more skillful ▪ She's a *better* golfer than I am. ▪ He's a *better* singer than he is an actor. ▪ He's much *better* with children now that he's a father himself.
3 : more attractive, appealing, effective, useful, etc. ▪ The weather is *better* today than it was yesterday. ▪ They came up with a *better* solution to the problem. ▪ I'd like to get a *better* [=more accurate and complete] understanding of the problem. ▪ Don't you have something/anything *better* to do than to watch TV all day? ▪ Her work wasn't that good at first, but it's getting *better*. ▪ Her work just keeps getting ***better and better***. ▪ There's ***nothing better*** than a cold drink of water when you're really thirsty. ▪ My salary isn't very high, but it's ***better than nothing***. ▪ "Suppose I move it a little to the left." "Yes, ***that's better***! It looks much *better* like that." ▪ You could write to her, or, ***even/still better***, visit her in person. ✧ Someone or something that ***has seen/known better days*** was better in the past than now. ▪ My old car *has seen better days*. ✧ People say ***the sooner the better***, ***the bigger the better***, ***the faster the better***, etc., when they want something to happen as soon as possible, to be as big as possible, to go as fast as possible, etc. ▪ "They say the cold weather will end soon." "Well, *the sooner the better* as far as I'm concerned."
4 : more morally right or good : more deserving of praise ▪ You're a *better* man than I am. ▪ "It is a far, far *better* thing that I do, than I have ever done . . . " —Charles Dickens, *A Tale of Two Cities* (1859) ▪ If you ask me, he's ***hardly/little/no better than*** a common criminal.
5 a : improved in health ▪ I was sick but now I'm *better*. [=now I'm well] ▪ I'm feeling all/completely *better*. ▪ I'm somewhat/slightly *better* than (I was) yesterday, but I'm not fully recovered. ▪ My cold is a little *better* today. [=my cold is not as bad today; my cold is less severe today] ▪ I'm sorry to hear that you're sick. I hope you ***feel/get better*** soon. ▪ He was feeling sick yesterday, and he's ***no better*** today. [=he's still feeling sick today] **b** : happier or more pleased ▪ Your support makes me feel *better* about doing what I've done.
6 — used to suggest that something should or should not be done ▪ It would be *better* for you to leave now [=you should leave now] if you want to get there on time. ▪ It would be *better* not to wait too long.

better luck next time see [1]LUCK
the better part of see [1]PART

[2]better *adv, comparative form of* [1]WELL
1 : in a better way ▪ "How is she doing in school?" "She did badly at first, but now she's doing much *better*." ▪ She sings *better* than I do. ▪ He sings *better* than he acts. ▪ You could write to her, or, ***even/still better***, visit her in person. = You could write to her. *Even/Still better*, you could visit her in person. ▪ "Instead of writing to her, I'm going to visit her in person." "***Even better***."
2 — used to suggest that something should or should not be done ▪ Some things are *better* left unsaid. [=it is better not to say some things] ▪ You would do *better* to leave now [=you should leave now] if you want to get there on time.
3 : to a higher or greater degree ▪ He knows the story much *better* than you do. ▪ Her paintings have become *better* known in recent years. ▪ There's nothing I'd like *better* than to see you again.
4 : greater in distance or amount : MORE ▪ It is *better* than nine miles to the next town. ▪ It's *better* than an hour's drive to the lake.

had better ✧ If you *had better* do something, you should do it. ▪ You'*d better* leave now or you might not get there on time. ▪ *Had*n't you *better* leave now if you want to get there on time? ▪ You'*d better* not do that or you'll get in trouble. [=you'll get in trouble if you do that] ▪ I told him he'*d better* leave at once. ▪ "Do you want to drive?" "I'*d better* not: I've had too much to drink." ▪ "I'm sorry." "You'*d better* be!" ▪ "Should I go there?" "You'*d better* not." In informal speech, *better* by itself is often used in this way without *had*. ▪ "Do you want to drive?" "I *better* not." ▪ I told him he *better* leave at once. ▪ "Should I go?" "You *better*!" ▪ "I'm sorry." "You *better* be!" ▪ "Should I go?" "(You) *Better* not."

[3]better *noun* [*noncount*] : something that is better : better be-

havior • They've disappointed me. I expected *better* from them. [=I expected them to behave better] • They shouldn't treat him that way. He deserves *better*.

all the better *or* ***so much the better*** — used to say that something makes a situation, experience, etc., even better than it was • My daughter loves taking care of children. If she can earn money by doing it, *so much the better*!

for better or (for) worse : whether good or bad things happen : no matter what happens • We've made our decision and now we have to stick to it *for better or worse*.

for the better : so as to produce improvement • The new policy is a change *for the better*. [=the new policy is an improvement] • My father's health has recently ***taken a turn for the better***. [=has recently improved]

get the better of : to defeat or trick (someone) by being clever • It would be hard to *get the better of* someone as experienced as she is. ✧ If a feeling or emotion *gets the better of* you, it causes you to do something that you should not do or that you are trying not to do. • She knew she shouldn't open the package, but her curiosity finally *got the better of* her and she opened it. • He let his temper *get the better of* him. [=he lost his temper; he said or did something because of anger]

go one better see [1]GO

know better see [1]KNOW

think better of see [1]THINK

your betters *somewhat old-fashioned* : people who are more important than you or who have a higher social position than you • His parents always told him to respect *his betters*. • (*chiefly Brit*) You should respect ***your elders and betters***. [=people who are older and more important than you]

[4]better *verb* **-ters**; **-tered**; **-ter•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to make (something) better : IMPROVE • They are trying to *better* the lives/lot of working people. • He looked forward to *bettering* his acquaintance with the new neighbors. • The team has *bettered* its chances of winning the championship.

2 : to be or do better than (something or someone) : to improve on (something or someone) • I can *better* their offer. [=I can make you a better offer] • She *bettered* her previous performance. • He set a record that has never been equaled or *bettered*.

better yourself : to do things (such as improving your education) that will make you a better or more successful person • She was born poor but she has worked hard to *better herself*.

[5]better *variant spelling of* BETTOR

better half *noun, pl* ~ **halfs** [*count*] *old-fashioned + humorous* : someone's wife or husband • Please come to our party—and your *better half* is invited, too!

bet•ter•ment /ˈbɛtɚmənt/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the act or result of making something better : IMPROVEMENT • working for the *betterment* of the lives of working people

better off *adj, comparative form of* WELL-OFF

1 : having more money and possessions : more well-to-do • The *better off* he became, the less he thought about other people. • The *better-off* people live in the older part of town.

2 : in a better position • He'd be *better off* with a new job.

bet•tor *also* **bet•ter** /ˈbɛtɚ/ *noun, pl* **-tors** *also* **-ters** [*count*] : a person who makes a bet • Thousands of *bettors* were at the race track last weekend.

[1]be•tween /bɪˈtwi:n/ *prep*

1 : in the space that separates (two things or people) • The ball rolled *between* the desk and the wall. • He stood *between* his mother and his father. • The office has two desks with a table *between* them. • They put up a fence *between* their house and their neighbor's house. • There are fences *between* all the houses. — often used figuratively • a book that blurs the line/boundary *between* fact and fiction — often used in the phrase ***in between*** • There are fences *in between* all the houses.

2 : in the time that separates (two actions, events, etc.) • If you want to lose weight, you shouldn't eat *between* meals. • *Between* bites of food, they talked to their teacher. • The two days *between* Monday and Thursday are Tuesday and Wednesday. • We should arrive *between* 9 and 10 o'clock. — often used in the phrase ***in between*** • You shouldn't eat *in between* meals.

3 — used to indicate the beginning and ending points of a group of numbers, a range of measurement, etc. • a number *between* 1 and 20 • The package weighs somewhere *between* a pound and a pound and a half. — sometimes used in the phrase ***in between*** • a number *in between* 1 and 20

4 : in shares to each of (two or more people) • The property was divided equally *between* the son and the daughter. [=the son and the daughter received an equal share of the property] • His estate was divided *between* [=*among*] his four grandchildren.

5 — used to indicate two or more people or things that together produce a result or have an effect • She ate two hot dogs, and he ate three hot dogs, so *between* them they ate five hot dogs. • *Between* work and family life, she has no time for hobbies. [=because of all the time she spends on her work and family life, she has no time for hobbies]

6 — used to indicate two people or teams that are involved in a game, activity, etc. • There's a game tonight *between* the Red Sox and the Yankees. [=the Red Sox are playing a game against the Yankees tonight]

7 — used to indicate two or more people or things that are joined, related, or connected in some way • There are many relations/connections *between* linguistics, philosophy, and psychology. • There is a passageway *between* the two rooms. • the bond *between* friends • We used to love each other, but there's nothing *between* us now. [=we don't love each other now]

8 — used to indicate two or more people or things that are being considered, compared, etc. • They compared the cars but found few differences *between* them. • We were allowed to choose *between* two/several options. • There's not much to choose *between* the two cars. [=the two cars are very similar] • There is very little difference *between* the two cars.

9 — used to indicate movement from one place to another place • He flies *between* Miami and Chicago twice a week. • The airline provides service *between* New York and Paris.

10 : known only by (two people) • They shared a secret *between* them. • (Just) ***Between you and me***, I think he's wrong. [=I'm telling you that I think he's wrong, but you should not tell anyone else what I've told you] • What I'm going to tell you should remain a secret (just) ***between us/ourselves***.

[2]between *adv* : in the space separating two things or people • The office has two desks with a table *between*. — often used in the phrase ***in between*** • The office has two desks with a table *in between*.

betwixt and between see BETWIXT

few and far between see [1]FEW

be•twixt /bɪˈtwɪkst/ *prep, old-fashioned + literary* : BETWEEN

betwixt and between : in the middle : not completely one thing and not completely the other thing • Politically, my parents are *betwixt and between*. They're neither liberal nor conservative in their views.

[1]bev•el /ˈbɛvəl/ *noun, pl* **-els** [*count*]

1 : a slanted surface or edge on a piece of wood, glass, etc. • the *bevel* of the mirror

2 : a tool that is used to make a slanted surface or edge on a piece of wood, glass, etc.

[2]bevel *verb* **-els**; *US* **-eled** *or Brit* **-elled**; *US* **-el•ing** *or Brit* **-el•ling** [+ *obj*] : to cut or shape (a surface or edge) at an angle or slant • a tool that is used for *beveling* wood

– **beveled** (*US*) *or Brit* **bevelled** *adj* • a mirror with a *beveled* edge • The blade is *beveled* on one side.

bev•er•age /ˈbɛvrɪʤ/ *noun, pl* **-ag•es** [*count*] *somewhat formal* : something you can drink : a liquid for drinking • May I offer you a *beverage*? [=*drink*] • *Beverages* are listed on the back of the menu. • alcoholic/nonalcoholic *beverages*

bev•vy /ˈbɛvi/ *noun, pl* **-vies** [*count*] *Brit, informal* : an alcoholic drink • He'd had a few *bevvies* too many and was feeling none too clever.

bevy /ˈbɛvi/ *noun, pl* **-ies** [*count*] : a large group *of* people or things — usually singular • A *bevy of* girls waited outside.

be•wail /bɪˈweɪl/ *verb* **-wails**; **-wailed**; **-wail•ing** [+ *obj*] *literary + humorous* : to express great sadness or disappointment about (something) • Many people *bewailed* the changes to the historic building. • She *bewailed* [=*bemoaned*] the fact that he had such terrible table manners. • *bewail* your fate

be•ware /bɪˈweɚ/ *verb* : to be careful : to act in a way that shows you know that there may be danger or trouble — used only as *beware* or *to beware* [*no obj*] A ghostly voice cried "*Beware*!" • Let the buyer *beware*. • He told them *to beware*. — often + *of* • The sign said "*Beware of* the dog." [+ *obj*] The restaurant's food is excellent, but *beware* the chili if you don't like spicy food.

be•wil•der /bɪˈwɪldɚ/ *verb* **-ders**; **-dered**; **-der•ing** [+ *obj*] : to confuse (someone) very much • His decision *bewildered* [=*puzzled, perplexed*] her. — often used as *(be) bewildered* • She *was bewildered* by his decision. • I *was* completely/utterly

bewildered by the complex instructions.
– **bewildered** *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ He had a *bewildered* expression on his face. – **bewildering** *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ a *bewildering* number of choices – **be•wil•der•ing•ly** *adv* ▪ The instructions were *bewilderingly* complex. – **be•wil•der•ment** /bɪˈwɪldɚmənt/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ She stared at them in *bewilderment* [=*confusion*] and shock.

be•witch /bɪˈwɪtʃ/ *verb* **-witch•es**; **-witched**; **-witch•ing** [+ *obj*]
1 : to use magic to make someone do, think, or say something : to put (someone) under a spell ▪ People believed the girls had been *bewitched*.
2 : to attract or delight (someone) in a way that seems magical ▪ They were *bewitched* [=*enchanted*, *fascinated*] by her beauty.
– **bewitching** *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ She has a *bewitching* [=*captivating*, *charming*] smile. ▪ The painting was *bewitching*. [=*mesmerizing*]

[1]be•yond /biˈɑːnd/ *adv*
1 a : on or to the farther part or side ▪ From the house we can see the valley and the hills *beyond*. ▪ We passed the hotel and drove a bit *beyond* to see the ocean. **b** : to or until a later time ▪ The children who are part of the study will be monitored through their school years and *beyond*.
2 : in addition ▪ The hostel provides the essentials but nothing *beyond*. [=*further*, *more*, *else*]

[2]beyond *prep*
1 : on or to the farther part or side of (something) : at a greater distance than (something) ▪ From the house we can see the valley and the mountains *beyond* it. ▪ The parking area is just *beyond* those trees. ▪ Our land extends *beyond* the fence to those trees. ▪ planets *beyond* our solar system
2 : outside the limits or range of (something) : more than (something) ▪ The job is *beyond* his ability. [=the job is too hard for him; he is not capable of doing the job well] ▪ Such a project is *beyond* the city's budget. [=the project is too expensive] ▪ The results were *beyond* our expectations. [=were better than we expected] ▪ His influence does not extend *beyond* this department. ▪ She became rich ***beyond her wildest dreams*** [=became very rich] ✧ If you ***live beyond your means***, you spend more money than you earn. ▪ We need to stop *living beyond our means* and start saving some money.
3 — used to say that something cannot be changed, understood, etc. ▪ The situation is ***beyond help*** [=the situation cannot be made better; nothing can help the situation] ▪ The city has changed ***beyond (all) recognition*** [=it has changed so much that it looks completely different] ▪ The circumstances are ***beyond our control*** [=we cannot control the circumstances] ▪ The stories she tells are ***beyond belief*** [=are not believable] ▪ His irresponsible actions are ***beyond comprehension/understanding*** [=cannot be understood] ✧ If something is ***beyond you***, you do not understand it. ▪ "Why is he going?" "It's *beyond me*." ▪ How she was able to afford the trip is *beyond me*.
4 : for a period of time that continues after (a particular date, age, etc.) ▪ The program is unlikely to continue *beyond* next year. [=it will probably end after next year] ▪ She plans to continue working *beyond* the usual retirement age.
5 : in addition to ▪ There were no other problems with the house *beyond* [=*besides*] the leaky roof. ▪ I knew nothing about him *beyond* [=*except*] what he told me.
above and beyond see [2]ABOVE

BFA *abbr* bachelor of fine arts

bi- /baɪ/ *prefix*
1 : two ▪ *bi*partisan ▪ *bi*lateral ▪ *bi*lingual
2 a : coming or happening every two ▪ *bi*monthly **b** : coming or happening two times ▪ *bi*annual

bi•an•nu•al /baɪˈænjəwəl/ *adj, always used before a noun*
1 : happening twice a year : SEMIANNUAL ▪ The group holds *biannual* meetings in December and July.
2 : happening every two years : BIENNIAL ▪ The art show is a *biannual* event that won't happen again for two more years.
– **bi•an•nu•al•ly** *adv*

[1]bi•as /ˈbajəs/ *noun, pl* **-as•es**
1 : a tendency to believe that some people, ideas, etc., are better than others that usually results in treating some people unfairly [*count*] The writer has a strong liberal/conservative *bias*. [=favors liberal/conservative views] ▪ ethnic and racial *biases* ▪ He showed a *bias* toward a few workers in particular. ▪ Do they have a *bias* against women/minorities? [*noncount*] The company was accused of racial/gender *bias*. ▪ The decision was made without *bias*. ▪ She showed no *bias* toward older clients.
2 : a strong interest in something or ability to do something ▪ a student with a strong *bias* towards the arts
on the bias : in a slanted directed — used to describe the way cloth is cut or sewn ▪ The material for the dress was cut *on the bias*.

[2]bias *verb* **-ases**; **-ased**; **-as•ing** [+ *obj*] : to have a strong and often unfair influence on (someone or something) ▪ I don't want to *bias* you against the movie, but I thought the book was much better. ▪ The circumstances could *bias* the results of the survey.

biased *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : having or showing a bias : having or showing an unfair tendency to believe that some people, ideas, etc., are better than others ▪ She is too *biased* to write about the case objectively. ▪ an extremely *biased* statement ▪ He is *biased* against women/minorities. ▪ The judges of the talent show were *biased* toward musical acts.

bi•ath•lon /baɪˈæθlən/ *noun, pl* **-lons** [*count*] *sports* : an event in which athletes ski over the countryside and stop to shoot rifles at targets ▪ the Olympic *biathlon*
– **bi•ath•lete** /baɪˈæθˌliːt/ *noun, pl* **-letes** [*count*]

bib /ˈbɪb/ *noun, pl* **bibs** [*count*]
1 : a piece of cloth or plastic that is worn under a baby's chin while the baby is eating
2 : the part of a piece of clothing (such as an apron) that covers the area above a person's waist

bi•ble /ˈbaɪbəl/ *noun, pl* **bi•bles**
1 ***the Bible*** **a** : the book of sacred writings used in the Christian religion ✧ The Christian Bible contains the Old Testament and the New Testament. **b** : the book of sacred writings used in the Jewish religion ✧ The Jewish Bible contains the writings that also form the Christian Old Testament.
2 ***Bible*** [*count*] : a copy or edition of the Bible ▪ She gave each of her grandchildren a *Bible*.
3 [*count*] : a book, magazine, etc., that contains the most important information about a particular thing ▪ The book is famous among foodies—it's the gourmet's *bible*. ▪ The magazine is now considered the *bible* of the plastics industry.

Bible Belt *noun*
the Bible Belt : an area chiefly in the southern part of the U.S. where there are many people who have very strong and strict Christian beliefs

bib•li•cal /ˈbɪblɪkəl/ *adj* : relating to, taken from, or found in the Bible ▪ a *biblical* [=*scriptural*] passage ▪ *biblical* references ▪ The city was a center for trade in *biblical* times. [=during the time when some things written about in the Bible happened]

biblio- *prefix* : relating to books ▪ *biblio*graphy ▪ *biblio*phile

bib•li•og•ra•phy /ˌbɪbliˈɑːgrəfi/ *noun, pl* **-phies** [*count*]
1 : a list of books, magazines, articles, etc., about a particular subject ▪ The instructor provided the students with an excellent *bibliography* on local history.
2 : a list of the books, magazines, articles, etc., that are mentioned in a text ▪ The book includes a lengthy *bibliography*.
– **bib•lio•graph•ic** /ˌbɪblijəˈgræfɪk/ *also* **bib•lio•graph•i•cal** /ˌbɪblijəˈgræfɪkəl/ *adj* ▪ *bibliographic* information

bib•lio•phile /ˈbɪblijəˌfajəl/ *noun, pl* **-philes** [*count*] : a person who loves or collects books

bi•cam•er•al /baɪˈkæmrəl/ *adj, technical* : having two parts — used to describe a government in which the people who make laws are divided into two groups ▪ The U.S. has a *bicameral* legislature that is made up of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

bi•carb /baɪˈkɑɚb/ *noun* [*noncount*] : BAKING SODA

bi•car•bon•ate of soda /baɪˈkɑɚbəˌneɪt-/ *noun* [*noncount*] : BAKING SODA

bi•cen•te•na•ry /ˌbaɪsɛnˈtɛnəri, *Brit* ˌbaɪsɛnˈtiːnəri/ *noun, pl* **-ries** [*count*] *Brit* : BICENTENNIAL
– **bicentenary** *adj, always used before a noun* ▪ a *bicentenary* celebration/year

bi•cen•ten•ni•al /ˌbaɪsɛnˈtɛnijəl/ *noun, pl* **-als** [*count*] *US* : a 200th anniversary or its celebration ▪ The United States celebrated its *bicentennial* [=(*Brit*) *bicentenary*] in 1976. [=celebrated the fact that it was 200 years old] ▪ Next year is the *bicentennial* of the school's founding [=the year 200 years after the school was started] — compare CENTENNIAL
– **bicentennial** *adj, always used before a noun* ▪ a *bicentennial* [=(*Brit*) *bicentenary*] celebration/year

bi•cep /ˈbaɪˌsɛp/ *noun, pl* **-ceps** [*count*] : BICEPS ▪ She flexed her left *bicep*.

bi•ceps /ˈbaɪˌsɛps/ *noun, pl* **-ceps** [*count*] : a large muscle at

the front of the upper arm — usually plural ▪ His *biceps* were huge. — see picture at HUMAN; compare TRICEPS

bick•er /ˈbɪkɚ/ *verb* **-ers**; **-ered**; **-er•ing** [*no obj*] : to argue in a way that is annoying about things that are not important ▪ She is always *bickering* with her mother. ▪ They *bickered* about/over how to decorate the room.
– **bickering** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ I can't stand their constant *bickering*.

bi•coast•al /baɪˈkoʊstəl/ *adj* : relating to both the east and the west coasts of the U.S. ▪ They're a *bicoastal* couple. [=one person lives on the east coast and the other person lives on the west coast] ▪ a *bicoastal* flight/conference call

[1]bi•cy•cle /ˈbaɪsɪkəl/ *noun, pl* **-cy•cles** [*count*] : a 2-wheeled vehicle that a person rides by pushing on foot pedals ▪ She rode her *bicycle* [=*bike*] to school. ▪ They toured Europe on *bicycles*. = They toured Europe by *bicycle*. ▪ Let's go for a *bicycle* ride [=ride our bicycles for pleasure] after work tonight. — compare TRICYCLE, UNICYCLE

[2]bicycle *verb* **-cy•cles**; **-cy•cled**; **-cy•cling** [*no obj*] : to ride a bicycle ▪ She *bicycles* [=*bikes*] to work every day.
– **bi•cy•cler** /ˈbaɪsɪklɚ/ *noun, pl* **-clers** [*count*] *US* ▪ a group of *bicyclers* – **bicycling** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ *Bicycling* is his favorite sport. ▪ Let's ***go bicycling*** after work tonight. – **bi•cy•clist** /ˈbaɪsɪklɪst/ *noun, pl* **-clists** [*count*] ▪ A group of *bicyclists* rode by.

bicycle shorts *noun* [*plural*] : short pants that fit close to the body and that people sometimes wear when they ride a bicycle

[1]bid /ˈbɪd/ *verb* **bids**; **bade** /ˈbæd, ˈbeɪd/ *or* **bid**; **bid•den** /ˈbɪdn̩/ *or* **bid**; **bid•ding**
1 *past tense and past participle* ***bid*** **a** : to offer to pay (a particular amount of money) for something that is being sold : to make a bid at an auction [+ *obj*] I'll *bid* $100 for/on the lamp but no higher. ▪ The auctioneer said, "What am I *bid* [=*offered*] *for* this lamp?" [*no obj*] He plans to stop *bidding* if the bids go over $500. ▪ She *bid* for/on a desk and a chair. ▪ The two brothers *bid against* each other for the same chair. [=they each tried to buy the chair by repeatedly making higher bids than the other one had made] **b** [*no obj*] *US* : to offer to do work for a particular price ▪ Several local companies are *bidding* for the same job. ▪ His company *bid* on the snow removal contract.
2 *past tense and past participle* ***bid*** : to say how many points you are trying to win in a card game [+ *obj*] He *bid* two. [*no obj*] He *bid* and I passed.
3 [+ *obj*] *formal* : to order or command (someone) to do something ▪ We did as we were *bid/bidden*. ▪ She *bid/bade* them enter. [=told them to come in] — see also UNBIDDEN
4 [+ *obj*] *formal* : to express (greetings or good wishes) to (someone) : to say (something, such as "good morning," "good evening, etc.") to (someone) ▪ They *bade* me farewell. = They *bade* farewell to me. [=they said goodbye to me] ▪ She *bid* him good day.
bid fair : to seem likely ▪ a movie that *bids fair* to become a big hit [=a movie that will probably be very successful]
bid up [*phrasal verb*] ***bid up (something) or bid (something) up*** : to raise the price of (something that is being sold) by repeatedly offering more money than other people ▪ Several antique dealers *bid up* the best lots to shut out less experienced bidders. ▪ Investors quickly *bid* stock prices *up* to record levels.
– **bid•der** *noun, pl* **-ders** [*count*] ▪ Items will be sold to the highest *bidder*. [=to the person who offers to pay the most]

[2]bid *noun, pl* **bids** [*count*]
1 a : an offer to pay a particular amount of money for something ▪ *Bids* for the painter's work have been quite high at recent auctions. ▪ She had the highest *bid*. ▪ He ***made a bid*** of $100 for the painting. ▪ He *made* the opening *bid*. **b** : an offer to do a job for a particular price ▪ The company is accepting *bids* for the renovation project.
2 : an attempt to win, get, or do something ▪ The company is facing a ***takeover bid***. [=someone is trying to gain control of the company by buying most of its stock] — often + *for* ▪ Two convicts made a dramatic *bid for* freedom but were soon recaptured. ▪ They made a strong *bid for* the championship. ▪ a *bid for* power/reelection — often followed by *to* + *verb* ▪ They failed in their *bid to close* the school.
3 : a statement of how many points a player is trying to win in a card game

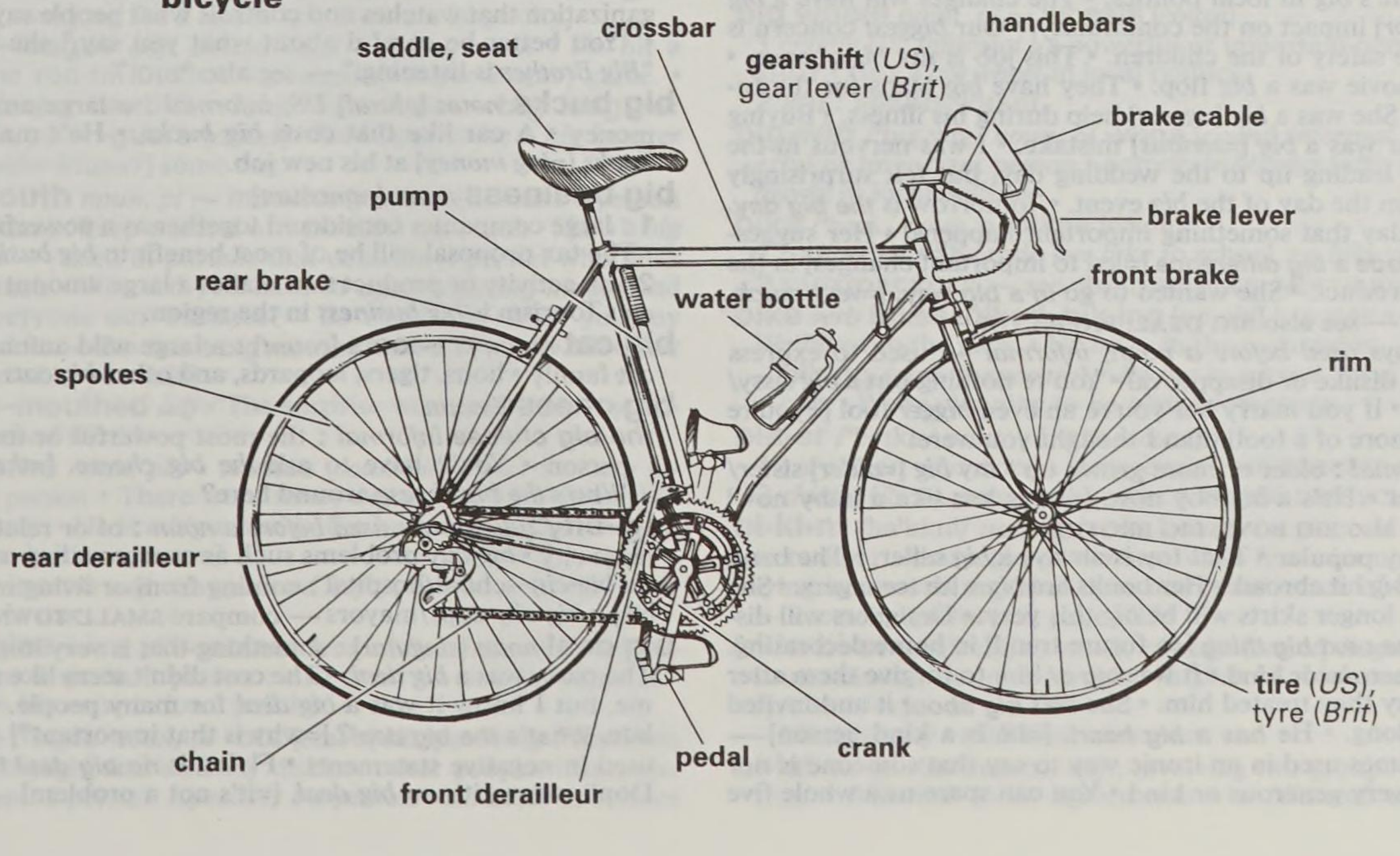
bid•da•ble /ˈbɪdəbəl/ *adj*
1 [*more* ~; *most* ~] *chiefly Brit* : willing to do whatever someone tells you to do : easily taught, led, or controlled ▪ The children became less *biddable* as they grew older.
2 : available to be bid on ▪ *biddable* items [=items that will be sold through bidding; items that will be sold to whoever will offer the most money] ▪ a *biddable* job [=a job that people or companies can offer to do for a particular price]

bidding *noun* [*noncount*]
1 : the act of offering to pay a particular amount of money for something : the act of making bids at an auction ▪ We expect to see heavy *bidding* on this item. [=we expect a lot of people to offer money for this item] ▪ *Bidding* started at $1,000.
2 : the act of offering to do a job for a particular price ▪ *Bidding* for the renovation project begins soon.
at someone's bidding *also* ***at the bidding of someone*** : as someone has told you or ordered you to do ▪ He attended law school *at his father's bidding*. [=because his father told/wanted him to attend law school]
do someone's bidding *also* ***do the bidding of someone*** : to do what someone tells you or orders you to do ▪ He was at the beck and call of powerful interest groups and was always willing to *do their bidding*.

bid•dy /ˈbɪdi/ *noun, pl* **-dies** [*count*] *informal + disapproving* : an old woman; *especially* : one who is silly or annoying ▪ a couple of old *biddies*

bide /ˈbaɪd/ *verb* **bides**; **bid•ed**; **bid•ing**

bicycle



bide your time : to wait for the right time before you do something ▪ He is *biding his time* [=waiting for the right opportunity] before asking his parents for a loan.

bi•det /bɪ'deɪ/ *noun, pl* **-dets** [*count*] : a bowl like a small toilet with faucets that is used for washing your bottom

[1]bi•en•ni•al /baɪ'ɛnijəl/ *adj, always used before a noun*
1 : happening every two years ▪ The governor explained the *biennial* budget proposal. ▪ a *biennial* show
2 *of a plant* : living for only two years or seasons : having a life cycle that is two years or seasons long ▪ *biennial* plants/herbs/flowers — compare [1]ANNUAL, [1]PERENNIAL
– **bi•en•ni•al•ly** *adv* ▪ The art show takes place *biennially*.

[2]biennial *noun, pl* **-als** [*count*] : a plant that lives for only two years or seasons : a biennial plant — compare [2]ANNUAL, [2]PERENNIAL

bier /'biə/ *noun, pl* **biers** [*count*] : a table or platform on which a coffin or dead body is placed at a funeral

biff /'bɪf/ *verb* **biffs**; **biffed**; **biff•ing** [+ *obj*] *chiefly Brit, informal* : to hit (someone) hard especially with your hand or fist ▪ She *biffed* [=*whacked*] him on the head.
– **biff** *noun, pl* **biffs** [*count*]

bi•fo•cal /'baɪˌfoʊkəl, *Brit* baɪ'fəʊkəl/ *adj, of eyeglasses* : divided into two parts that help a person to see things that are nearby and things that are far away ▪ *bifocal* lenses/glasses
– **bi•fo•cals** /'baɪˌfoʊkəlz, *Brit* baɪ'fəʊkəlz/ *noun* [*plural*] ▪ She wears *bifocals*. [=eyeglasses with bifocal lenses]

bi•fur•cate /'baɪfəˌkeɪt/ *verb* **-cates**; **-cat•ed**; **cat•ing** *formal* : to divide into two parts [*no obj*] The stream *bifurcated* into two narrow winding channels. [+ *obj*] *bifurcate* a beam of light
– **bifurcated** *adj* ▪ a *bifurcated* stream – **bi•fur•ca•tion** /ˌbaɪfə'keɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** [*count, noncount*]

[1]big /'bɪg/ *adj* **big•ger**; **-gest**
1 : large in size ▪ a *big* house/room/field ▪ a *big* glass of soda ▪ He is a *big* [=*tall and heavy*] man. ▪ She moved to a *bigger* city. ▪ the *biggest* city in the state ▪ The tent is *big* enough for 10 people. [=there is enough space in the tent for 10 people] ▪ A ***great big*** [=*very large, huge*] truck pulled up beside us. ▪ I can't understand her writing; she uses too many ***big words***. [=long words that many people don't know the meaning of] — see also *the big city* at CITY
2 : large in number or amount ▪ He led a *big* group through the museum. ▪ She was earning ***big money*** [=a lot of money] as a lawyer. — see also BIG BUCKS
3 : involving or including many people, things, etc. ▪ She works for a *big* company. ▪ He organized a *big* advertising campaign. ▪ We had a *big* fund-raiser for the school.
4 *always used before a noun* **a** : tending to do something more often than most people ▪ He's a *big* eater. [=he often eats large amounts of food] ▪ She's a *big* shopper. [=she shops often] **b** : feeling or showing a lot of excitement or enthusiasm ▪ I'm a *big* fan of their music. ▪ He gave me a *big* smile/hug.
5 : important or significant ▪ She became a *big* star in movies. ▪ He's *big* in local politics. ▪ The changes will have a *big* [=*major*] impact on the community. ▪ Our *biggest* concern is for the safety of the children. ▪ This job is my *big* chance. ▪ The movie was a *big* flop. ▪ They have *big* plans for the future. ▪ She was a *big* [=*great*] help during his illness. ▪ Buying this car was a *big* [=*serious*] mistake. ▪ I was nervous in the weeks leading up to the wedding day, but felt surprisingly calm on the day of the *big* event. ▪ Tomorrow is ***the big day***. [=the day that something important happens] ▪ Her suggestion ***made a big difference*** [=led to important changes] in the final product. ▪ She wanted to go ***in a big way***. [=*very much, badly*] — see also BIG DEAL, BIG PICTURE
6 *always used before a noun, informal* — used to express strong dislike or disapproval ▪ You're nothing but a *big* sissy/bully! ▪ If you marry her you're an even *bigger* fool [=you're even more of a fool] than I thought you were!
7 *informal* : older or more grown up ▪ my *big* [=*older*] sister/brother ▪ He's a *big* boy now. [=he is less like a baby now] — see also BIG BOYS, BIG BROTHER
8 : very popular ▪ That toy is always a *big* seller. ▪ The band was a *big* hit abroad. ▪ Her books are *big* with teenagers. ▪ She thinks longer skirts will be *big* this year. ▪ Designers will discuss ***the next big thing*** [=a future trend] in home decorating.
9 : generous or kind ▪ It was ***big of*** him to forgive them after the way they treated him. ▪ She was ***big about*** it and invited him along. ▪ He ***has a big heart***. [=he is a kind person] — sometimes used in an ironic way to say that someone is not being very generous or kind ▪ You can spare us a whole five minutes of your time? Well, that's *big of you*! — see also BIG-HEARTED
10 : very strong, forceful, etc. ▪ There was a *big* [=*powerful*] storm last night.
(as) big as life see [1]LIFE
big fish in a small/little pond see [1]FISH
big on *informal* : very enthusiastic about (something) ▪ He's *big on* stamp collecting. [=he likes collecting stamps very much] ▪ She's not (very) *big on* dancing.
big with child *old-fashioned* : pregnant and almost ready to give birth ▪ a woman who was *big with child*
too big for your britches (*US*) *or chiefly Brit* ***too big for your boots*** *informal* : too confident or proud of yourself ▪ I think the boss is growing *too big for his britches*.
– **big•ness** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the *bigness* of the city

[2]big *adv*
1 : in a big way ▪ They won/lost *big* [=they won/lost a large amount] at the casino.
2 : in a way that is meant to impress people ▪ He ***talks big*** about his plans, but he hasn't done much yet.
go over big *informal* : to be successful or well-liked ▪ Here's a recipe for healthy cookies that always *goes over big* with kids. [=that children like a lot]
make it big *or* ***hit it big*** *or* ***hit big*** *informal* : to become very successful ▪ He always dreamed of *making it big* in the movie industry. ▪ Her best friend *hit it big* playing the stock market.
think big : to think about doing things that involve a lot of people, money, effort, etc. : to think about doing big things ▪ If we're going to start our own business, we should *think big*.

big•a•my /'bɪgəmi/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the crime of marrying one person while you are still legally married to another ▪ He was accused of *bigamy*.
– **big•a•mist** /'bɪgəmɪst/ *noun, pl* **-mists** [*count*] ▪ She found out that he was a *bigamist*. – **big•a•mous** /'bɪgəməs/ *adj* ▪ a *bigamous* marriage

Big Apple *noun*
the Big Apple *informal* — used as a name for New York City ▪ She moved to *the Big Apple* after she graduated.

big band *noun, pl* ~ **bands** [*count*] : a large musical group that usually plays jazz music that people dance to

big bang *noun*
the big bang : a huge explosion that might have happened when the universe began ▪ a few billion years after *the big bang* ✧ The scientific theory that the universe began with a huge explosion is called ***the big bang theory***.

big–boned *adj* **bigger–boned**; **biggest–boned** [*or more ~; most ~*] : having large bones : large but not fat ▪ He is tall and *big-boned*. ▪ a *big-boned* girl/gal

big boys *noun*
the big boys *informal* : the most powerful people or companies ▪ He'll have to work pretty hard if he wants to compete with *the big boys* in the industry.

Big Brother *noun* [*singular*] : a powerful government or organization that watches and controls what people say and do ▪ "You better be careful about what you say," she warned, "*Big Brother* is listening!" — see also [1]BIG 7

big bucks *noun* [*plural*] *US, informal* : a large amount of money ▪ A car like that costs *big bucks*. ▪ He's making *big bucks* [=*big money*] at his new job.

big business *noun* [*noncount*]
1 : large companies considered together as a powerful group ▪ The tax proposal will be of most benefit to *big business*.
2 : an activity or product that makes a large amount of money ▪ Tourism is *big business* in the region.

big cat *noun, pl* ~ **cats** [*count*] : a large wild animal of the cat family ▪ lions, tigers, leopards, and other *big cats*

big cheese *noun*
the big cheese *informal* : the most powerful or important person ▪ You'll have to ask *the big cheese*. [=*the boss*] ▪ Who's *the big cheese* around here?

big–city *adj, always used before a noun* : of or relating to a large city ▪ *big-city* problems such as overcrowding and noise ▪ a *big-city* school/hospital : coming from or living in a large city ▪ *big-city* cops/mayors — compare SMALL-TOWN

big deal *noun* [*singular*] : something that is very important ▪ The party was a *big deal*. ▪ The cost didn't seem like much to me, but I know it was a *big deal* for many people. ▪ So I'm late. ***What's the big deal***? [=why is that important?] — often used in negative statements ▪ Flying is ***no big deal*** to him. ▪ Don't worry, it's *no big deal*. [=it's not a problem] — some-

times used ironically as an interjection to say that something is not important to you ▪ "She's going to be angry." "*Big deal.*" [=*so what*?] ▪ "You broke it!" "*Big deal.*" [=I don't care]

make a big deal (out) of (something) *or* ***make (something) into a big deal*** : to treat (something) as very important or too important ▪ The girl's song was far from perfect, but her parents *made a big deal of it*, and she was very happy. ▪ Don't *make* such *a big deal (out) of* missing the bus: there'll be another one along in a minute.

big dipper *noun, pl* ~ **-pers**

1 ***the Big Dipper*** *US* : a group of seven stars in the northern sky that form a shape like a large dipper or ladle ▪ We could see *the Big Dipper* [=(*Brit*) *the Plough*] in the northern sky. — compare LITTLE DIPPER

2 [*count*] *Brit, old-fashioned* : ROLLER COASTER 1

Big·foot *or* **big·foot** /ˈbɪgˌfʊt/ *noun* [*singular*] : SASQUATCH

big game *noun* [*noncount*] : large animals (such as elephants and tigers) that are hunted for sport ▪ They traveled to Africa to hunt *big game*. ▪ a *big-game* hunter

big·gie /ˈbɪgi/ *noun, pl* **-gies** [*count*] *informal* : someone or something that is very big or important ▪ He met with some television *biggies*. ▪ They've had problems before, but this one's a real *biggie*. ▪ (*chiefly US*) "Sorry I'm late." "***No biggie***. [=it's not a problem] I'm not in a hurry."

big·gish /ˈbɪgɪʃ/ *adj* : somewhat big ▪ He has a *biggish* [=*largish*] nose.

big government *noun* [*noncount*] *US* : government that has too much influence and power over citizens ▪ a politician who promises to do away with high taxes and *big government*

big gun *noun*

the big guns *informal* : the most powerful people, companies, organizations, etc. ▪ They called in *the big guns* to deal with the problem.

big–headed *adj*

1 : having a large head ▪ a *big-headed* dinosaur

2 [*more* ~; *most* ~] *disapproving* : sure that you are better or more important than other people : CONCEITED ▪ *big-headed* celebrities/politicians

big–hearted *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : generous and kind ▪ a *big-hearted* kid/person

big·horn sheep /ˈbɪgˌhoɚn-/ *noun, pl* ~ **sheep** [*count*] : a kind of wild sheep with long curved horns that lives in the mountains of western North America — called also *bighorn*

big house *noun*

the big house *US slang* : PRISON ▪ He spent four years in *the big house*.

bight /ˈbaɪt/ *noun, pl* **bights** [*count*] : a curve in a coast or the bay formed by such a curve ▪ the *Bight* of Benin ▪ the Great Australian *Bight*

big league *noun*

the big leagues *US* : the two main U.S. baseball leagues (the American League and the National League) ▪ He always dreamed of playing in *the big leagues*. [=*the major leagues*] — often used figuratively ▪ She's in *the big leagues* now, working for a major law firm in a large city.

– **big–league** *adj, always used before a noun* ▪ He hit a home run in his first *big-league* [=*major-league*] game. ▪ *big-league* baseball ▪ a *big-league* team – **big leagu·er** *noun, pl* ~ **-guers** [*count*] ▪ He hopes to be a *big leaguer* [=*major leaguer*] some day.

big mouth *noun, pl* ~ **mouths** [*count*] *informal* : a person who cannot keep a secret or who talks too much ▪ She's a *big mouth*. — used in phrases that describe a person who talks too much ▪ Why did you have to ***open your big mouth*** and tell everyone our business? ▪ Be careful of what you say around her—she ***has a big mouth***. [=she is likely to tell other people what you said]

– **big–mouthed** *adj* ▪ The surprise was spoiled by my *big-mouthed* friend.

big name *noun, pl* ~ **names** [*count*] *informal* : a very famous person ▪ There were many *big names* [=*celebrities*] at the party. ▪ He is a *big name* in the business world. [=he is a famous businessperson]

– **big–name** *adj, always used before a noun* ▪ a *big-name* movie star

big noise *noun, pl* ~ **noises** [*count*] *Brit, informal* : a powerful or important person : BIG SHOT — usually singular ▪ She's a *big noise* in local politics.

big·ot /ˈbɪgət/ *noun, pl* **-ots** [*count*] *disapproving* : a person who strongly and unfairly dislikes other people, ideas, etc. : a bigoted person; *especially* : a person who hates or refuses to accept the members of a particular group (such as a racial or religious group) ▪ He was labeled a *bigot* after making some offensive comments.

big·ot·ed /ˈbɪgətəd/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *disapproving* : having or showing a strong and unfair dislike of other people, ideas, etc.; *especially* : hating or refusing to accept the members of a particular group ▪ a *bigoted* neighbor ▪ Many people found his *bigoted* comments offensive.

big·ot·ry /ˈbɪgətri/ *noun* [*noncount*] : bigoted acts or beliefs ▪ a protest against *bigotry* ▪ religious/racial *bigotry*

big picture *noun*

the big picture : everything that relates to or is involved in a situation or issue ▪ We need to look at *the big picture* before we can work out specific details.

big screen *noun*

the big screen : movies and the movie industry especially when they are being compared to television ▪ She was a star of *the big screen*. [=*the silver screen*] ▪ The television show was adapted for *the big screen*. [=the television show was made into a movie]

big–screen *adj, always used before a noun*

1 : relating to movies or the movie industry ▪ She worked on the novel's *big-screen* adaptation.

2 : having a large screen ▪ a *big-screen* television

big shot *noun, pl* ~ **shots** [*count*] *informal* : a powerful or important person ▪ All the corporate *big shots* are meeting this afternoon. ▪ a *big shot* in local politics

big stick *noun, pl* ~ **sticks** [*count*] : a threat to use violence or force to make a person, group, country, etc., do something — usually singular ▪ The organization wields a pretty *big stick* when it comes to fighting poverty. [=the organization is able to fight poverty because it can threaten to use force, such as legal action]

big–tick·et /ˈbɪgˈtɪkət/ *adj, chiefly US, informal* : having a high price : EXPENSIVE ▪ *big-ticket* items like cars and appliances

big time *noun*

the big time : the highest or most successful level of an activity ▪ He was a good basketball player but he never made (it to) *the big time*. ▪ The group performed in small clubs for years before ***hitting the big time*** [=becoming very successful] with a record deal.

[1]big–time /ˈbɪgˌtaɪm/ *adj, always used before a noun* : relating to or involved in the highest or most successful level of an activity ▪ I covered *big-time* [=*major*] college sports for the newspaper. ▪ He became a *big-time* racketeer.

[2]big–time *adv, chiefly US, informal* : in a big way : very much or very badly ▪ The new show bombed *big-time*. [=the new show was very unsuccessful] ▪ You owe me *big-time*.

big toe *noun, pl* ~ **toes** [*count*] : the largest toe on a person's foot

big top *noun* [*singular*] : a large circus tent — usually used with *the* ▪ She dreamed of performing ***under the big top***. [=performing in/with the circus]

big wheel *noun, pl* ~ **wheels** [*count*]

1 *chiefly US, informal* : a powerful or important person : BIG SHOT ▪ He's a *big wheel* in local politics.

2 *Brit* : FERRIS WHEEL

big·wig /ˈbɪgˌwɪg/ *noun, pl* **-wigs** [*count*] *informal* : a powerful or important person ▪ corporate *bigwigs* [=*big shots*] ▪ a *bigwig* in local politics

[1]bike /ˈbaɪk/ *noun, pl* **bikes** [*count*]

1 : BICYCLE ▪ She rode her *bike* to school. ▪ a *bike* path

2 : MOTORCYCLE — see also DIRT BIKE, MOTORBIKE

[2]bike *verb* **bikes**; **biked**; **bik·ing** [*no obj*] : to ride a bicycle ▪ We *biked* to the park. ▪ He *bikes* in the mountains.

– **biking** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ *Biking* is a great form of exercise. ▪ We're planning to ***go biking*** tomorrow.

bik·er /ˈbaɪkɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]

1 : a person who rides a motorcycle : MOTORCYCLIST

2 *chiefly US* : a person who rides a bicycle : BICYCLIST

bi·ki·ni /bəˈkiːni/ *noun, pl* **-nis** [*count*] : a piece of clothing in two parts that a girl or woman wears for swimming or for lying in the sun and that does not cover much of the body — see color picture on page C13

bi·la·bi·al /baɪˈleɪbijəl/ *noun, pl* **-als** [*count*] *linguistics* : a sound made by using both lips ▪ English *bilabials* such as /b/, /p/, and /m/

– **bilabial** *adj* ▪ a *bilabial* consonant

bi·lat·er·al /baɪˈlætərəl/ *adj* : involving two groups or countries ▪ *bilateral* trade agreements ▪ a *bilateral* treaty —

compare MULTILATERAL, UNILATERAL

bile /ˈbajəl/ *noun* [*noncount*]
1 : a yellow or greenish liquid that is made by the liver and that helps the body to digest fats
2 : anger or hatred ▪ One writer objected to what she described as "the *bile* that is spewed from the newspaper's editorial page."

bilge /ˈbɪldʒ/ *noun, pl* **bilg•es**
1 [*count*] : the bottom part of the inside of a ship or boat ▪ water in the *bilge*
2 [*noncount*] *informal* : foolish or worthless statements or information : NONSENSE ▪ That magazine prints a lot of *bilge* about celebrities.

bi•lin•gual /baɪˈlɪŋgwəl/ *adj*
1 : able to speak and understand two languages ▪ Several of the employees are *bilingual*. ▪ He is *bilingual* in English and Japanese.
2 : using or expressed in two languages ▪ a *bilingual* dictionary ▪ She grew up in a *bilingual* community. ▪ The town has an excellent *bilingual* education program. — compare MONOLINGUAL, MULTILINGUAL
– **bilingual** *noun, pl* **-guals** [*count*] ▪ Several of the employees are *bilinguals*. – **bi•lin•gual•ism** /baɪˈlɪŋgwəˌlɪzəm/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ She says her *bilingualism* [=her ability to speak two languages] has helped her in her career.

bil•ious /ˈbɪljəs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]
1 : having or causing a sick feeling in the stomach : feeling or causing nausea ▪ a *bilious* attack
2 : angry or bad-tempered ▪ a *bilious* disposition
3 : very unpleasant to look at ▪ a *bilious* [=*repulsive*] shade of green

bilk /ˈbɪlk/ *verb* **bilks**; **bilked**; **bilk•ing** [+ *obj*] *chiefly US, informal* : to cheat or trick (a person or organization) especially by taking money ▪ They were convicted of *bilking* [=*defrauding, swindling*] the company (out) of a lot of money.

[1]bill /ˈbɪl/ *noun, pl* **bills** [*count*]
1 : a document that says how much money you owe for something you have bought or used ▪ He paid the telephone *bill*. ▪ Did our water *bill* arrive yet? ▪ I've been having a hard time paying the *bills* since I lost my job. [=paying what I owe for housing, heat, electricity, etc.] ▪ The waiter gave us our *bill*. ▪ I can't pay for it now: just put it on my *bill*. [=add the amount I now owe to what I already owe and I will pay the total amount later] — compare BILL OF SALE
2 : a written description of a new law that is being suggested and that the lawmakers of a country, state, etc., must vote to accept before it becomes law ▪ They will introduce an anti-smoking *bill* in Congress. ▪ The Senate passed/rejected the *bill*. ▪ How does a *bill* become a law?; *also* : such a bill after it has become a law ▪ the GI *bill* — see also BILL OF RIGHTS
3 *chiefly US* : a piece of paper money ▪ He handed me a 5-dollar *bill*. ▪ *bills* and coins — called also (*Brit*) *note*
4 : a written or printed advertisement that is used to announce a play, movie, or concert to the public and to list the names of the performers ▪ Who is on the *bill*? [=who is performing?] ▪ a ***double bill*** [=a concert that has two parts] featuring two of the world's best jazz trumpeters ▪ The notice on the wall said "***Post No Bills***." [=do not put any advertisements on the wall]
fill the bill *or* ***fit the bill*** : to be exactly what is needed : to be suitable ▪ If you want to stay near the beach, this hotel will *fit the bill*.
foot the bill see [2]FOOT
give (someone or something) a clean bill of health : to officially say that someone is healthy or that something is working correctly ▪ The doctor *gave* him *a clean bill of health*. ▪ The governor *gives* the program *a clean bill of health*.
– compare [3]BILL

[2]bill *verb* **bills**; **billed**; **bill•ing** [+ *obj*]
1 : to send a bill to (someone or something) : to provide (a person, business, organization, etc.) with a statement that says how much money is owed for something that has been bought or used ▪ They *billed* me for the repairs they made to the roof. ▪ The company was *billed* for the deliveries.
2 : to describe (someone or something) *as* a particular thing so that people will like or want that person or thing — usually used as *(be) billed* ▪ The city is *being billed* [=*advertised*] *as* one of the best places to live in the state. ▪ She *was billed as* the next big movie star. — see also BILLING
3 : to officially say that someone is going *to do* something — usually used as *(be) billed* ▪ Both writers *are billed to appear* at the conference.
– compare [4]BILL

[3]bill *noun, pl* **bills** [*count*]
1 : a bird's beak ▪ a duck's *bill* — see picture at BIRD
2 *US* : the part of a cap that sticks out in front : the visor of a hat
– compare [1]BILL

[4]bill *verb* **bills**; **billed**; **billing**
bill and coo *old-fashioned* : to kiss and talk quietly ▪ A young couple sat together in the corner, *billing and cooing*.
– compare [2]BILL

bill•board /ˈbɪlˌboəd/ *noun, pl* **-boards** [*count*] : a large sign for advertisements that is next to a road, on the side of a building, etc. — called also (*Brit*) *hoarding*

[1]bil•let /ˈbɪlət/ *noun, pl* **-lets** [*count*] : a private home where a soldier lives temporarily with the people who live there

[2]billet *verb* **-lets**; **-let•ed**; **-let•ing** [+ *obj*] : to put (someone, such as a soldier) in a private home to live there temporarily — usually used as *(be) billeted* ▪ The soldiers *were billeted* [=*quartered, housed*] in houses throughout the town.

bill•fold /ˈbɪlˌfoʊld/ *noun, pl* **-folds** [*count*] *US* : a small folding case that holds paper money and credit cards : WALLET

bil•liards /ˈbɪljədz/ *noun* [*noncount*] : any one of several games that are played on a large table by hitting solid balls into one another with the end of a long stick ✧ The table used for some types of billiards has pockets at the corners and sides. — compare POOL, SNOOKER
– **bil•liard** /ˈbɪljəd/ *adj, always used before a noun* ▪ *billiard* balls ▪ a *billiard* table

bill•ing /ˈbɪlɪŋ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the things that are said or written to make people interested in a show, perfomer, etc. ▪ The film didn't live up to its advance *billing*. [=it was not as good as people said it would be] ✧ The person who gets ***top/star billing*** for a play, movie, etc., is the most important or famous performer whose name is shown above the names of other performers in signs and advertisements. ▪ She'll get *top billing* on her next film. ▪ Both of the actors want *star billing*.

bil•lion /ˈbɪljən/ *noun, pl* **billion** *or* **bil•lions** [*count*]
1 : the number 1,000,000,000 : one thousand million ▪ a/one/two *billion* (of them) ▪ a hundred *billion* = 100 *billion* ▪ several *billion* (of them) = (less commonly) several *billions* (of them) ▪ hundreds of *billions* (of them) ▪ a *billion* and one [=1,000,000,001] ▪ a *billion* and a half = 1.5 *billion* [=1,500,000,000] ▪ The company is worth *billions*. [=worth billions of dollars, pounds, euros, etc.]
2 : a very large amount or number ▪ We could see a *billion* stars in the sky. ▪ I've heard that excuse a *billion* times before. [=many, many times before] — often plural ▪ We could see *billions* of stars. ▪ ***billions and billions*** of stars
3 *Brit, old-fashioned* : the number 1,000,000,000,000 : TRILLION
– **bil•lionth** /ˈbɪljənθ/ *adj* ▪ our (one) *billionth* customer ▪ This is the *billionth* time I've seen this show. [=I've seen this show many times] – **billionth** *noun, pl* **-lionths** [*count*] ▪ one *billionth* [=one of a billion equal parts] of a second

bil•lion•aire /ˌbɪljəˈneə/ *noun, pl* **-aires** [*count*] : a rich person who has at least a billion dollars, pounds, etc.

bill of exchange *noun, pl* **bills of exchange** [*count*] *business* : a document that tells a person or business to pay a particular amount of money to another person or business

bill of fare *noun, pl* **bills of fare** [*count*] *somewhat formal* + *old-fashioned* : a list of the things that are served at a restaurant : MENU ▪ The *bill of fare* includes several soups.

bill of rights *or* **Bill of Rights** *noun* [*singular*] : a written statement that lists the basic rights of the citizens of a country ▪ Certain freedoms are guaranteed to all Americans by ***the Bill of Rights***. [=the first 10 amendments to the U.S. Constitution]

bill of sale *noun, pl* **bills of sale** [*count*] : a document saying that something has been sold to a new owner ▪ Do you have the *bill of sale* for the car?

[1]bil•low /ˈbɪloʊ/ *noun, pl* **-lows** [*count*]
1 : a moving cloud or mass of smoke, steam, etc. ▪ *Billows* of smoke poured out of the burning building. ▪ *billows* of fog
2 *literary* + *old-fashioned* : a large wave ▪ the rolling *billows* of the sea

[2]billow *verb* **-lows**; **-lowed**; **-low•ing** [*no obj*]
1 : to move as a large cloud or mass ▪ Clouds of smoke *billowed* (up) from the chimney.

2 : to be pushed outward by air • sails *billowing* (out) in the breeze
3 *literary + old-fashioned* : to rise or roll in waves • the *billowing* ocean

bil•ly club /'bɪli-/ *noun, pl* ~ **clubs** [*count*] *US* : NIGHTSTICK

billy goat *noun, pl* ~ **goats** [*count*] : a male goat — compare NANNY GOAT

bim•bo /'bɪmboʊ/ *noun, pl* **-bos** [*count*] *informal* : an attractive but stupid woman • Her husband ran off with some *bimbo*.

bi•month•ly /baɪ'mʌnθli/ *adj*
1 : occurring every two months • The group holds *bimonthly* meetings in January, March, May, and so on.
2 : occurring twice a month : SEMIMONTHLY • The group holds *bimonthly* meetings on the first and third Tuesday of each month.
– **bimonthly** *adv*

[1]bin /'bɪn/ *noun, pl* **bins** [*count*]
1 : a box that is used for storing things • a storage/laundry *bin* • Put the old newspapers in the recycling *bin*.
2 *chiefly Brit* : a can for trash or garbage : DUSTBIN — see also BIN LINER, BINMAN

[2]bin *verb* **bins**; **binned**; **bin•ning** [+ *obj*] *Brit, informal* : to put (something) in the trash • *binning* old newspapers

bi•na•ry /'baɪnəri/ *adj, technical*
1 : relating to or consisting of two things or parts • *binary* stars
2 : relating to or involving a method of calculating and of representing information especially in computers by using the numbers 0 and 1 • *binary* digits/numbers

[1]bind /'baɪnd/ *verb* **binds**; **bound** /'baʊnd/; **bind•ing**
1 [+ *obj*] : to tie or wrap (something) with rope, string, etc. • She *bound* her hair in a ponytail. • The machine *binds* the hay into bales.
2 [+ *obj*] : to tie the hands or feet of a person to prevent escape or movement • He *bound* the prisoner's wrists (together) with a rope. • The captive was ***bound and gagged***. [=tied up and stopped from talking with something that covers the mouth] — sometimes used figuratively • They are *bound* by their own inhibitions.
3 [*no obj*] *of clothing* : to prevent free movement by fitting too tightly • He doesn't like to wear clothes that *bind*.
4 [+ *obj*] : to wrap or cover (something) with a bandage • The doctor *bound* (up) the injured ankle.
5 [+ *obj*] : to make (someone) have to do something because of a promise, agreement, etc. • He *bound* himself with an oath. — usually used as *(be) bound* • By signing here, you agree to *be bound* by the terms of the contract. — see also [2]BINDING, [2]BOUND 5
6 [+ *obj*] : to make (something, such as an agreement) certain • A handshake *binds* the deal.
7 [+ *obj*] : to cause (people) to be joined together closely • the emotional ties that *bind* us • different groups *bound* together by a common interest
8 : to cause (something) to form a mass that stays together [+ *obj*] The mayonnaise *binds* the salad together. [*no obj*] If you leave out the eggs, the dough won't *bind*.
9 *technical* : to combine with (something) by chemical forces [+ *obj*] cellulose *binds* water [*no obj*] particles that *bind* to/with one another
10 [+ *obj*] : to put a special decorative edge on (something, such as cloth or carpet) • You need to *bind* the edges so it won't unravel.
11 [+ *obj*] : to put a cover or binding on (a book) • This book was *bound* by hand. — see also [2]BOUND 6
bind over [*phrasal verb*] ***bind (someone) over*** **1** *US, law* : to require (someone) to appear in court • He was *bound over* for trial. **2** *Brit, law* : to warn (someone) that if they break the law again they will be punished • The shoplifters were simply *bound over*.

[2]bind *noun* [*singular*]
1 : a difficult situation • Can you help me? I seem to have gotten myself into a (bit of a) *bind*.
2 *Brit* : an annoying problem : NUISANCE • It's a real *bind* having to meet all these deadlines.

bind•er /'baɪndɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]
1 : a cover for holding together sheets of paper • a loose-leaf *binder* — see also RING BINDER
2 : a material that is used to hold things together • The egg in the recipe acts as a *binder*.
3 : a person or machine that puts books together
4 *US* : a temporary insurance contract that provides coverage until a policy is issued
5 *US* : a payment given to make an agreement official and legal • She gave the lawyer 1,000 dollars as a *binder* when she signed the agreement to buy the house.

[1]bind•ing /'baɪndɪŋ/ *noun, pl* **-ings**
1 [*count*] : the cover of a book • a leather *binding*
2 : a narrow strip of cloth attached along the edge of something [*noncount*] a carpet edged with canvas *binding* [*count*] The *bindings* have started to come loose.
3 : a device that attaches a boot to a ski

[2]binding *adj* : forcing or requiring someone to do something because of a promise, agreement, etc. • The contract is legally *binding*. • The parties agreed to settle the dispute through ***binding arbitration***.

[1]binge /'bɪnʤ/ *noun, pl* **bing•es** [*count*] : a short period of time when you do too much of something • a drinking/shopping *binge* — often used in the phrase ***go on a binge*** • He *went on an* eating *binge*. [=he ate a lot in a short period of time] — often used before another noun • *binge* drinking

[2]binge *verb* **binges**; **binged**; **binge•ing** *or* **bing•ing** [*no obj*] : to eat, drink, etc., too much in a short period of time : to go on a binge — often + *on* • He *binges on* beer now and then.
binge and purge : to eat a lot of food and then force yourself to vomit so that you do not gain weight • Her college roommate used to *binge and purge*.
– **bing•er** *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] • He's a bit of a beer *binger*.

[1]bin•go /'bɪŋgoʊ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a game in which players match numbered squares on a card with numbers that are called out until someone wins by matching five squares in a row • She plays *bingo* twice a week. — often used before another noun • *bingo* halls/parlors • a *bingo* game

[2]bingo *interj*
1 — used to announce that you have won the game in bingo
2 — used to announce a successful result that is quick or unexpected • Then, *bingo*! The idea hit me.
3 — used to indicate that another person's statement is correct • "You mean he lied to us?" "*Bingo*!" [=*exactly*]

bin liner *noun, pl* ~ **-ers** [*count*] *Brit* : a plastic bag used in a garbage can

bin•man /'bɪnˌmæn/ *noun, pl* **-men** /-ˌmɛn/ [*count*] *Brit* : GARBAGEMAN

bin•oc•u•lar /baɪ'nɑːkjələɚ/ *adj* : involving or designed for both eyes • *binocular* vision • a *binocular* microscope

bin•oc•u•lars /bə'nɑːkjələɚz/ *noun* [*plural*] : a device that you hold up to your eyes and look through to see things that are far away • a bird in a tree seen through (a pair of) *binoculars*



binoculars

bi•no•mi•al /baɪ'noʊmijəl/ *noun, pl* **-als** [*count*] *mathematics* : an expression consisting of two terms connected by a plus sign or minus sign • the *binomial* a + b
– **binomial** *adj* • *binomial* expressions

bio- *combining form* : relating to life or living things • *bio*sphere • *bio*chemistry

bio•chem•is•try /ˌbajoʊ'kɛməstri/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the chemistry of living things • the brain's *biochemistry* • advances in the field of *biochemistry* • a professor of *biochemistry*
– **bio•chem•i•cal** /ˌbajoʊ'kɛmɪkəl/ *adj* • *biochemical* changes/processes – **bio•chem•ist** /ˌbajoʊ'kɛmɪst/ *noun, pl* **-ists** [*count*]

bio•de•grad•able /ˌbajoʊdɪ'greɪdəbəl/ *adj* : capable of being slowly destroyed and broken down into very small parts by natural processes, bacteria, etc. • *biodegradable* trash bags • This plastic isn't *biodegradable*.

bio•di•ver•si•ty /ˌbajoʊdə'vɚsəti/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the existence of many different kinds of plants and animals in an environment • efforts to preserve *biodiversity*

bio•feed•back /ˌbajoʊ'fiːdˌbæk/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the technique of controlling things in your body (such as heartbeats or brain waves) with your conscious mind

bio•graph•i•cal /ˌbajə'græfɪkəl/ *adj* : relating to or telling the story of a real person's life • *biographical* information • a *biographical* essay

bi•og•ra•phy /baɪ'ɑːgrəfi/ *noun, pl* **-phies** [*count*] : the story of a real person's life written by someone other than that person • a new *biography* of Abraham Lincoln — compare AUTOBIOGRAPHY
– **bi•og•ra•pher** /baɪ'ɑːgrəfɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] • Lin-

B

coln's *biographers* [=people who wrote biographies of Lincoln]

bio•haz•ard /ˈbajoʊˌhæzəd/ *noun, pl* **-ards** [*count*] : a biological or chemical substance or situation that is dangerous to human beings and the environment • The gasoline spill created a serious *biohazard*.
– **bio•haz•ard•ous** /ˌbajoʊˈhæzədəs/ *adj* • *biohazardous* materials

bi•o•log•i•cal /ˌbajəˈlɑːdʒɪkəl/ *adj*
1 : of or relating to biology or to life and living things • *biological* processes • *biological* research
2 : related through birth — used to distinguish the parents who gave birth to a child from the parents who later adopted the child • an adopted child who finally found her *biological* mother
– **bi•o•log•i•cal•ly** /ˌbajəˈlɑːdʒɪkli/ *adv* • a *biologically* diverse region

biological clock *noun, pl* ~ **clocks** [*count*] : a system in the body that controls the occurrence of natural processes (such as waking, sleeping, and aging) — often used to describe a woman's desire to have children before she is too old • She felt her *biological clock* ticking away and wanted to have a baby as soon as possible.

biological control *noun, pl* ~ **-trols**
1 [*noncount*] : a method of controlling harmful insects, diseases, etc., in an environment (such as a garden or a lawn) by using other insects or natural substances • She practices *biological control* in her gardening.
2 [*count*] : an insect or a natural substance that is used to control control harmful insects, diseases, etc. • She uses *biological controls* in her garden.

biological warfare *noun* [*noncount*] : the use of harmful living things (such as germs that cause disease) as weapons in a war

biological weapon *noun, pl* ~ **-ons** [*count*] : a harmful living thing (such as a germ that causes disease) used as a weapon in a war

bi•ol•o•gy /baɪˈɑːlədʒi/ *noun* [*noncount*]
1 : a science that deals with things that are alive (such as plants and animals) • advances in the field of *biology* • a professor of *biology*
2 : the plant and animal life of a particular place • the *biology* of the rain forest
3 : the processes that occur in a living thing • human *biology* • the *biology* of tumor cells
– **bi•ol•o•gist** /baɪˈɑːlədʒɪst/ *noun, pl* **-gists** [*count*]

bi•on•ic /baɪˈɑːnɪk/ *adj, of body parts* : made stronger or more capable by special electronic devices — usually used figuratively • a pitcher with a *bionic* arm [=a pitcher who throws extremely fast]

bio•pic /ˈbajoʊˌpɪk/ *noun, pl* **-pics** [*count*] *informal* : a biographical movie • We watched a *biopic* about Beethoven.

bi•op•sy /ˈbaɪˌɑːpsi/ *noun, pl* **-sies** [*count*] *medical* : the removal of tissue, cells, or fluids from someone's body in order to check for illness • a skin *biopsy*

bio•rhythm /ˈbajoʊˌrɪðəm/ *noun, pl* **-rhythms** [*count*] : a natural, repeated pattern of changes that occur in the body and that affect the way a person feels

bio•sphere /ˈbajəˌsfɪə/ *noun* [*singular*] : the part of the Earth in which life can exist — usually used with *the* • the effects of pollution on *the biosphere*

bio•tech /ˈbajoʊˌtɛk/ *noun* [*noncount*] : BIOTECHNOLOGY

bio•tech•nol•o•gy /ˌbajoʊtɛkˈnɑːlədʒi/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the use of living cells, bacteria, etc., to make useful products (such as crops that insects are less likely to destroy or new kinds of medicine)
– **bio•tech•no•log•i•cal** /ˌbajoʊˌtɛknəˈlɑːdʒɪkəl/ *adj*

bi•par•ti•san /baɪˈpɑətəzən, *Brit* ˌbaɪˌpɑːtəˈzæn/ *adj* : relating to or involving members of two political parties • a *bipartisan* effort/commission • The bill has *bipartisan* support.
– **bi•par•ti•san•ship** /baɪˈpɑətəzənˌʃɪp, *Brit* ˌbaɪˌpɑːtəˈzænˌʃɪp/ *noun* [*noncount*]

bi•ped /ˈbaɪˌpɛd/ *noun, pl* **-peds** [*count*] : a 2-footed animal • Human beings are *bipeds*. — compare QUADRUPED

bi•plane /ˈbaɪˌpleɪn/ *noun, pl* **-planes** [*count*] : an old type of airplane that has two sets of wings with one placed above the other — compare MONOPLANE

bi•po•lar disorder /baɪˈpoʊlə-/ *noun* [*noncount*] *medical* : MANIC DEPRESSION

bi•ra•cial /baɪˈreɪʃəl/ *adj* : of, relating to, or involving people from two races • a *biracial* coalition • a *biracial* couple; *also* : having parents from two races • *biracial* children

birch /ˈbəʧ/ *noun, pl* **birch•es**
1 a [*count*] : a type of tree that has outer bark which can be pulled off easily — called also *birch tree* **b** [*noncount*] : the hard, pale wood of the birch • a cabinet made of *birch*
2 *the birch* *Brit* : the punishment of being hit with a birch stick • In those days, schoolchildren got *the birch* when they misbehaved.

bird /ˈbəd/ *noun, pl* **birds** [*count*]
1 : an animal that has wings and is covered with feathers • A large *bird* flew overhead. • The *birds* were singing outside our window. • a flock of *birds* — see color picture on page C9; see also BIRD OF PARADISE, BIRD OF PASSAGE, BIRD OF PREY
2 *informal* : PERSON • He's a tough old *bird*. — see also RARE BIRD
3 *Brit, informal + sometimes offensive* : GIRL • We met some smashing *birds* at the pub last night.

a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush ✧ The expression *a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush* means that it is better to hold onto something you have than to risk losing it by trying to get something better.

(as) free as a bird see ¹FREE

birds of a feather flock together see ¹FEATHER

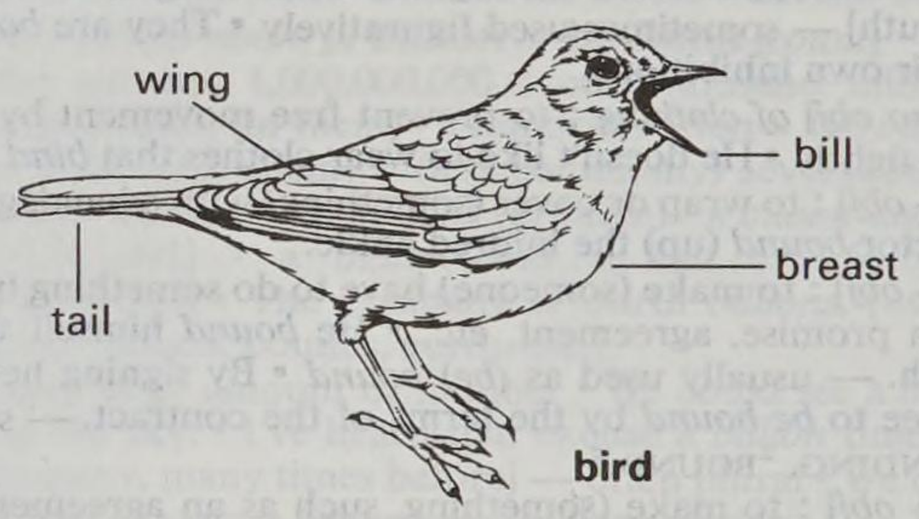
for the birds *informal* : worthless or ridiculous • This town is *for the birds*.

give (someone) the bird *informal* **1** *or* ***flip (someone) the bird*** *US* : to make an offensive gesture at someone by pointing the middle finger upward while keeping the other fingers folded down • He *flipped them the bird*. [=*gave them the finger*] **2** *Brit* : to loudly shout at, laugh at, or boo someone (such as a performer) in order to show disapproval • The audience *gave him the bird*.

kill two birds with one stone see ¹KILL

the birds and the bees *informal + humorous* : the facts about sex that are told to children • He dreaded having to explain about *the birds and the bees* [=*the facts of life*] to his son.

the early bird catches/gets the worm see ²EARLY



bird

bird•bath /ˈbədˌbæθ, *Brit* ˈbəːdˌbɑːθ/ *noun, pl* **-baths** [*count*] : a bowl that is filled with water and usually raised above the ground in a yard or garden so birds can bathe in it — see color picture on page C6

bird•brain /ˈbədˌbreɪn/ *noun, pl* **-brains** [*count*] *US, informal* : a stupid person • Her brother's a real *birdbrain*.
– **bird•brained** /ˈbədˌbreɪnd/ *adj* • her *birdbrained* brother

bird•cage /ˈbədˌkeɪʤ/ *noun, pl* **-cag•es** [*count*] : a cage for birds

bird dog *noun, pl* ~ **dogs** [*count*] *US* : a dog that has been trained to help people hunt birds — called also (*Brit*) *gun dog*

bird•er /ˈbədə/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : BIRD-WATCHER
– **bird•ing** /ˈbədɪŋ/ *noun* [*noncount*] • She goes *birding* [=*bird-watching*] with her friends.

bird•house /ˈbədˌhaʊs/ *noun, pl* **-hous•es** [*count*] : a small covered box that is made as a place for wild birds to nest

¹bird•ie /ˈbədi/ *noun, pl* **-ies**
1 [*count*] : a small bird — used especially by children or when speaking to children • Look at all the little *birdies*.
2 *golf* : a score of one stroke less than par on a hole [*count*] I made/scored a *birdie* on the fifth hole. [*noncount*] I made *birdie* on the fifth hole. — compare BOGEY, EAGLE
3 [*count*] *US* : SHUTTLECOCK

²birdie *verb* **bird•ies**; **bird•ied**; **bird•ie•ing** [+ *obj*] : to score a birdie on (a hole in golf) • She *birdied* the second hole.

bird•like /ˈbədˌlaɪk/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : resembling a bird • a small, *birdlike* man • *birdlike* features

bird•life /ˈbədˌlaɪf/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the birds that live in a particular place • The rain forests are rich in *birdlife*. [=there are many birds in the rain forests]

bird of paradise *noun, pl* **birds of paradise** [*count*] : any one of many brightly colored birds that live in New Guinea and in nearby islands

bird of passage *noun, pl* **birds of passage** [*count*]
1 : a bird that travels from one location to another when the seasons change
2 *literary* : a person who wanders to many different places throughout life

bird of prey *noun, pl* **birds of prey** [*count*] : a bird that hunts and eats other animals ▪ eagles, hawks, and other *birds of prey*

bird·seed /ˈbɚdˌsi:d/ *noun* [*noncount*] : seeds that are used for feeding birds

bird's–eye /ˈbɚdzˌaɪ/ *adj, always used before a noun* : seen from high above ▪ We had a *bird's-eye* view/perspective of the city as we flew over it.

bird·song /ˈbɚdˌsɑ:ŋ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the song of a bird or of many birds ▪ The forest was filled with *birdsong*.

bird–watch·er /ˈbɚdˌwɑ:ʧɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : a person who watches and identifies wild birds — called also *birder*
– **bird–watch·ing** /ˈbɚdˌwɑ:ʧɪŋ/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ She goes *bird-watching* [=*birding*] with her friends.

birth /ˈbɚθ/ *noun, pl* **births**
1 : the time when a baby comes out from the body of its mother [*count*] He was present at/for the *birth* of his daughter. ▪ The hospital reported an increase in premature *births*. [*noncount*] Please indicate your date of *birth*. ▪ the period from *birth* to adolescence ▪ a disease that is present at *birth* ▪ She's Canadian by *birth*. [=she was born in Canada] — often used before another noun ▪ What was the baby's *birth* weight?
2 [*noncount*] : the beginning or origin of something ▪ the *birth* of the solar system ▪ the *birth* of the blues ▪ We are witnessing the *birth* of a new era.
3 [*noncount*] — used to describe the kind of family a person comes from ▪ a person of noble/low/humble *birth* [=*ancestry*]
give birth **1** *of a mother* : produce a baby from the body ▪ Did she *give birth* in a hospital or at home? — usually + *to* ▪ He was present when his wife *gave birth to* his daughter. ▪ Our cat *gave birth to* four kittens. **2** : to cause the beginning of something — + *to* ▪ a revolution that *gave birth to* a new nation

birth canal *noun, pl* ~ **-nals** [*count*] : the part of a mother's body that a baby passes through when it is born

birth certificate *noun, pl* ~ **-cates** [*count*] : an official document that gives information about a person's birth (such as the person's name, the names of the parents, and the time and place where the birth occurred)

birth control *noun* [*noncount*] : things that are done to keep a woman from becoming pregnant ▪ modern methods of *birth control* [=*contraception*] — often used before another noun ▪ a *birth control* pill

birth·day /ˈbɚθˌdeɪ/ *noun, pl* **-days** [*count*]
1 : the day when someone was born or the anniversary of that day ▪ Her *birthday* is September 30th. ▪ Today is his 21st *birthday*. ▪ Happy *Birthday*! — often used before another noun ▪ a *birthday* party/gift
2 : the day when something began ▪ The company just celebrated its 50th *birthday*.
birthday suit *informal + humorous* ✧ If you are wearing your *birthday suit*, you are naked. ▪ We were standing there in nothing but our *birthday suits*.

birth father *noun, pl* ~ **-ers** [*count*] : the father of a child when the child is born : the natural father of a child who has been adopted

birth·ing /ˈbɚθɪŋ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the act of giving birth ▪ pregnancy and *birthing* ▪ home *birthing* — often used before another noun ▪ a *birthing* room/center ▪ the *birthing* process

birth·mark /ˈbɚθˌmɑɚk/ *noun, pl* **-marks** [*count*] : an unusual mark that is present on the skin from the time when someone is born

birth mother *noun, pl* ~ **-ers** [*count*] : the mother of a child when the child is born : a woman who gave birth to a child who has been adopted

birth parent *noun, pl* ~ **-ents** [*count*] : the natural father or mother of a child who has been adopted

birth·place /ˈbɚθˌpleɪs/ *noun, pl* **-plac·es** [*count*] : the place where someone was born or where something began ▪ He visited his grandmother's *birthplace*. ▪ New Orleans is regarded as the *birthplace* of jazz.

birth·rate /ˈbɚθˌreɪt/ *noun, pl* **-rates** [*count*] : a number that shows how many babies are born in a particular place or during a particular time ▪ nations with high *birthrates*

birth·right /ˈbɚθˌraɪt/ *noun, pl* **-rights** [*count*] : a right that you have because you were born into a particular position, family, place, etc., or because it is a right of all people ▪ the freedom that is our *birthright*

bis·cuit /ˈbɪskət/ *noun, pl* **-cuits** [*count*]
1 *US* : a small, light roll that is eaten as part of a meal
2 *Brit* : COOKIE
take the biscuit *Brit, informal* : to win the prize — used to describe something that is extremely surprising, annoying, etc. ▪ I've heard some silly excuses in my time, but this one really *takes the biscuit*! [=(*US*) *takes the cake*]

bi·sect /ˈbaɪˌsɛkt/ *verb* **-sects**; **-sect·ed**; **-sect·ing** [+ *obj*] : to divide (something) into two equal parts ▪ Draw a line that *bisects* the angle. ▪ The city is *bisected* by the highway.

bi·sex·u·al /baɪˈsɛkʃəwəl/ *adj*
1 : sexually attracted to both men and women ▪ *bisexual* people ▪ She's *bisexual*. — compare HETEROSEXUAL, HOMOSEXUAL
2 : having both male and female sex parts ▪ a *bisexual* plant
3 : relating to or involving two sexes ▪ *bisexual* reproduction
– **bisexual** *noun, pl* **-als** [*count*] ▪ He identifies himself as a *bisexual*. – **bi·sex·u·al·i·ty** /baɪˌsɛkʃəˈwæləti/ *noun* [*noncount*]

bish·op /ˈbɪʃəp/ *noun, pl* **-ops** [*count*]
1 : an official in some Christian religions who is ranked higher than a priest and who is usually in charge of church matters in a specific geographical area ▪ Roman Catholic *bishops* ▪ the *Bishop* of New York
2 : a piece in the game of chess that moves across the board at an angle — see picture at CHESS

bish·op·ric /ˈbɪʃəprɪk/ *noun, pl* **-rics** [*count*]
1 : the area a bishop is in charge of : DIOCESE
2 : the position of bishop ▪ He was elected to the *bishopric* at the turn of the century.

bis·muth /ˈbɪzməθ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a grayish-white metallic element that is used in alloys and drugs

bi·son /ˈbaɪsn̩/ *noun, pl* **bison** *also* **bi·sons** [*count*] : a large, hairy wild animal that has a big head and short horns — called also (*US*) *buffalo*



bison

bisque /ˈbɪsk/ *noun, pl* **bisques** [*count, noncount*] : a thick, creamy soup ▪ lobster *bisque*

bis·tro /ˈbi:stroʊ/ *noun, pl* **-tros** [*count*] : a small restaurant or bar ▪ a trendy *bistro* ▪ a *bistro* in Paris that serves veal chops and hearty stews

[1]bit /bɪt/ *noun, pl* **bits**
1 [*count*] : a small piece of something ▪ Put all the broken *bits* back together. — often + *of* ▪ He ate every last/single *bit of* the food. [=he ate all of the food] ▪ He ate only a couple of tiny little *bits of* bread and cheese and drank a drop or two of wine. ▪ We need to get all the *bits of* dirt out of the carpet. ▪ There were broken *bits of* glass all over the floor. — see also BITS AND PIECES (below)
2 [*count*] **a** *chiefly Brit* : a part of something (such as a book, play, etc.) ▪ There are some good *bits* [=*parts*] near the end of the story: one is the *bit* where the hero and the heroine are nearly separated. **b** *chiefly US* : a brief comic performance or joke ▪ The comedian did a funny *bit* about taking his daughter to the dentist. ▪ a corny comedy *bit* **c** : a very short performance in a movie, play, etc. — usually used before another noun ▪ a *bit* part/role ▪ *bit* players
3 [*singular*] *informal* : all the things that are connected to an activity, a process, etc. ▪ He says he's tired of his job, tired of driving to work every day, ***the whole bit***. [=*everything*]
4 [*count*] *Brit* : an old coin with a specified small value ▪ a threepenny *bit* — see also TWO BITS
a bit **1** : a little : somewhat or rather ▪ I let it bother me *a bit*. [=*slightly*] ▪ His house is down the street *a bit* further. ▪ There's *a bit* too much sugar in the dessert, which makes it *a bit* too sweet. ▪ I'm feeling *a bit* better today. ▪ It's *a bit* like driving a car. ▪ This one is *a bit* bigger than that one. ▪ At first, I was *a bit* confused. **2** : a small amount or quantity : a little of something ▪ They don't understand much—but they do understand *a bit*. ▪ They saved money *a bit* at a time. ▪ "How much cake is left?" "Only *a* (very little) *bit*." ▪

"How old is your daughter?" "She's two and *a bit*." [=she's slightly older than two] — often + *of* ▪ They understand only *a bit of* [=*a little of*] what is going on. ▪ There's *a bit of* both brown sugar and molasses in these cookies. ▪ The job may cause you *a bit of* trouble. ▪ His mind's already made up. It won't do you *a bit of* good to argue. [=it won't do you any good to argue] **3 a** : a short period of time : a while ▪ Let's wait *a* (little/wee) *bit* longer. ▪ Repairs will begin in *a bit* more than a month. ▪ He left but came back after *a bit*. [=he came back soon] **b** : for a short period of time ▪ Please stay here with me *a bit*.

a bit much *informal* — used to describe a person or thing that is regarded as annoying, excessive, or unfair ▪ My mother thinks he's funny, but I find him *a bit much*. ▪ I find his constant joking *a bit much*. ▪ It was *a bit much* to expect us to wait that long. ▪ The hot weather is getting to be *a bit much*.

a bit of a/an *chiefly Brit* — used to make a statement or description less forceful or definite ▪ I had *a bit of a* shock when I saw him. [=I was somewhat shocked when I saw him] ▪ He's *a bit of a* rascal. [=he's something of a rascal] ▪ We had *a bit of a* laugh about it afterwards.

a bit of all right *Brit, informal* : someone or something very pleasing; *especially* : a sexually attractive person ▪ His girlfriend's *a bit of all right*.

a little bit see [3]LITTLE

bit by bit : by small steps or amounts : GRADUALLY ▪ The situation improved *bit by bit*. [=*little by little*] ▪ I got to know them *bit by bit*.

bits and pieces **1** : small pieces ▪ There were broken *bits and pieces* of glass all over the floor. ▪ I finished the project ***in bits and pieces*** [=a little at a time] during my spare time. **2** *or Brit* ***bits and bobs*** : things or objects of different kinds ▪ There are just a few *bits and pieces* of furniture in the office. ▪ No one knows exactly what happened. All we have is a few *bits and pieces* [=*odds and ends*] of information so far.

do your bit *chiefly Brit* : to do your share of a job or task ▪ We all have to *do our bit* [=*do our part*] to help out.

every bit : in every way ▪ The end of the movie was *every bit* [=*just*] as good as the beginning. ▪ This new project seems *every bit* as ambitious as the first one. ▪ He is *every bit* the high-powered businessman. ▪ You are *every bit* as deserving as she is.

not a/one bit *or* ***not (in) the least/smallest/slightest/tiniest bit*** : not at all ▪ It *didn't* interest me *a bit*. = It *didn't* interest me *one* (single/little) *bit*. ▪ I'm *not a bit* interested in this movie. = I'm *not the least bit* interested in this movie. ▪ That joke was *not a/one bit* funny. [=was not funny at all] ▪ We *weren't a bit* tired. [=we weren't tired at all]

not a bit of it *Brit, informal* — used to say that something expected or possible did not happen or is not true ▪ Am I tired? *Not a bit of it*. [=I am not tired at all] ▪ I thought she'd be angry, but *not a bit of it*. [=she wasn't angry at all]

quite a bit *or chiefly Brit* ***a good/fair bit*** : a fairly large amount : a lot ▪ He knows *quite a bit* [=*quite a lot*] more about it than I do. ▪ The wait was *quite a bit* [=*considerably*] longer than I thought it would be. ▪ She lost the race by *quite a bit*. ▪ We've been seeing *quite a bit* of each other lately. [=we've been spending a lot of time together lately] ▪ She'd already finished *a good bit* of the work before I returned. ▪ There's still *a fair bit* (of the cake) left.

take a bit of doing see DOING

to bits **1** : to pieces : APART ▪ The ball hit the window and smashed it *to bits*. ▪ The bridge was blown *to bits* by the explosion. ▪ (*chiefly Brit*) The pie was ***falling to bits*** [=*falling apart*] as I tried to serve it. **2** *informal* : to a very great degree ▪ She was thrilled *to bits*. [=she was very thrilled]

– compare [2]BIT, [3]BIT

[2]bit *noun, pl* **bits** [*count*]

1 : the part of a tool (such as a drill) that is used for cutting, drilling, etc. — see picture at CARPENTRY

2 : a piece of metal that is put in the mouth of a horse and that is part of the device (called a bridle) that is used to control the horse — see picture at HORSE

champing/chomping at the bit : waiting in an impatient way to do something ▪ We've all been *champing at the bit* to get started on the project.

get/take the bit between your teeth : to start doing something in a very enthusiastic and determined way ▪ He can be lazy about doing his work, but when he *gets the bit between his teeth* there's no stopping him.

– compare [1]BIT, [3]BIT

[3]bit *noun, pl* **bits** [*count*] *computers* : a single unit of computer information that is represented as either 1 or 0 — compare BYTE; see also MEGABIT — compare [1]BIT, [2]BIT

[4]bit *past tense of* [1]BITE

[1]bitch /ˈbɪtʃ/ *noun, pl* **bitch•es**

1 [*count*] : a female dog

2 [*count*] *informal* + *offensive* : a very bad or unpleasant woman : a woman you strongly dislike or hate ▪ You stupid *bitch*! ▪ I hate that *bitch*.

3 [*singular*] *informal* : something that is very difficult or unpleasant ▪ Divorce is a *bitch*. ▪ That word is a *bitch* to spell.

— see also SON OF A BITCH

[2]bitch *verb* **bitches**; **bitched**; **bitch•ing** [*no obj*] *informal* + *disapproving* : to complain about something in a repeated and annoying way ▪ He *bitched* constantly about his old car, but he doesn't like his new one either. ▪ Stop *bitching* at me.

bitch•in' /ˈbɪtʃən/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *US slang* : very good or appealing : COOL ▪ a *bitchin'* car ▪ a *bitchin'* band

bitchy /ˈbɪtʃi/ *adj* **bitch•i•er**; **-est** [*also more* ~; *most* ~] *informal* : very unpleasant, unfriendly, or rude ▪ a *bitchy* salesclerk ▪ a *bitchy* attitude ▪ a *bitchy* comment

– **bitch•i•ly** /ˈbɪtʃəli/ *adv* – **bitch•i•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

[1]bite /ˈbaɪt/ *verb* **bites**; **bit** /ˈbɪt/; **bit•ten** /ˈbɪtn̩/; **bit•ing** /ˈbaɪtɪŋ/

1 *of a person or animal* **a** : to press down on or cut into (someone or something) with the teeth [+ *obj*] He *bit* the apple. ▪ The hamster *bit* the child. ▪ She *bit* the cookie in half. ▪ Some people *bite* their nails when they feel nervous. — often + *off* ▪ The child *bit off* a corner of the cracker. [*no obj*] A wild animal may *bite* if it is frightened. — often + *down, into,* or *through* ▪ He accidentally *bit down* on his tongue. ▪ She had just *bitten into* her sandwich when the phone rang. ▪ The dog *bit through* its leash and ran off. ▪ Go talk to him. He ***won't bite*** [=you should not be afraid to go talk to him] **b** *of an insect or snake* : to wound (someone) by pushing a stinger, fang, etc., into the skin [+ *obj*] The patient had been *bitten* by a poisonous snake. ▪ A mosquito *bit* me. [*no obj*] The mosquitoes are *biting* tonight. — sometimes used figuratively ▪ He was ***bitten by the travel bug*** [=he became very interested in or excited about traveling]

2 [*no obj*] : to grab and hold something without slipping — usually + *into* ▪ The anchor *bit into* the ocean floor.

3 [*no obj*] **a** *of a fish* : to take a fishhook and bait into the mouth and usually to get caught ▪ Are the fish *biting* today? **b** *somewhat informal* : to respond to or accept something that is being offered ✧ Someone gets you to *bite* by offering something you want so that you will do something desired. ▪ We offered them a great deal, but they wouldn't *bite*. [=they wouldn't accept the deal] ▪ "I just heard the juiciest piece of gossip!" "OK, I'll *bite*. [=I'll ask the question you want me to ask] What is it?"

4 [*no obj*] *chiefly Brit* : to have a bad effect ▪ With the recession starting to *bite*, many government-funded programs have had to be eliminated.

5 [*no obj*] *US slang, impolite* : to be extremely bad ▪ This movie really *bites*. [=*sucks, stinks*] ▪ "They canceled the concert." "Man, ***that bites***!" [=(politely) that's awful]

bite back [*phrasal verb*] *informal* **1** : to attack or criticize someone who has attacked or criticized you ▪ Weary of her rival's accusations, the candidate *bit back* [=*hit back, fought back*] with an aggressive ad campaign. — often + *at* ▪ She *bit back at* her rival with an aggressive ad campaign. **2** ***bite back (something)*** *or* ***bite (something) back*** : to stop yourself from saying (something) ▪ I attempted to smile sweetly while *biting back* angry comments.

bite off more than you can chew *informal* : to try to do too much : to take on more responsibility than you can handle ▪ I really *bit off more than I could chew* when I took on this project.

bite someone's head off *informal* : to yell at someone or to be very critical of someone especially very suddenly and without a good reason ▪ I asked him one simple question and he *bit my head off*.

bite the bullet *informal* : to do something unpleasant or painful because it is necessary even though you would like to avoid it ▪ We need to *bite the bullet* and make some budget cuts.

bite the dust *informal* : to die or stop functioning ▪ My old car finally *bit the dust* and I had to buy a new one.

bite the hand that feeds you *informal* : to harm someone who has helped or supported you ▪ He was reluctant to criticize his mentor for fear of *biting the hand that fed him*.

bite your tongue *also* ***bite your lip*** *informal* : to not speak : to stop yourself from saying something that you are tempted to say ▪ I thought she was acting foolishly, but I *bit my tongue* [=*held my tongue*] and didn't say anything. — often used as a command ▪ "I hope he gets hurt." "*Bite your tongue*! [=don't say that] That's a terrible thing to say!"

come back to bite you ✧ If something that you do *comes back to bite you*, it causes problems for you at a later time. ▪ Their decision not to invest more money in new equipment may *come back to bite them* eventually.

hair of the dog that bit you see HAIR

once bitten, twice shy ✧ The expression *once bitten, twice shy* means that a person who has failed or been hurt when trying to do something is careful or fearful about doing it again.

– **bit•er** *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]

[2]bite *noun, pl* **bites**

1 [*count*] **a** : an act of biting ▪ He ate the candy bar in three quick *bites*. ▪ She gave her lip a gentle *bite*. ▪ The fisherman felt a *bite* at the end of his line and reeled in a fish. **b** : the way the upper and lower teeth come together ▪ My teenage daughter wears a special device at night to correct her *bite*. — see also OVERBITE

2 a [*count*] : the amount of food eaten with a bite ▪ He took several *bites* (out) of the apple. ▪ She didn't touch/eat a *bite*. [=she didn't eat anything] ▪ I can't eat another *bite*. [=I'm completely full; I no longer feel any hunger] **b** [*singular*] *informal* : a small amount of food : a snack or a small informal meal ▪ We grabbed a quick *bite* (to eat) before the show. ▪ They've gone out for a *bite* (to eat).

3 [*count*] : a wound made by biting ▪ Don't scratch that mosquito *bite*. — see also SNAKEBITE

4 [*noncount*] : a bad effect : a negative impact ▪ Many agencies have been feeling the *bite* of budget cuts.

5 [*noncount*] **a** : a sharp feeling or taste ▪ We felt the *bite* of the cold wind on our cheeks. ▪ The soup has a peppery *bite*. **b** : a sharp quality in something written, spoken, or performed ✧ Something that has *bite* usually expresses criticism in a strong and often clever way. ▪ satirical *bite* ▪ the *bite* of his humor

your bark is worse than your bite see [2]BARK

– see also SOUND BITE

bite–size /'baɪt,saɪz/ *also* **bite–sized** /'baɪt,saɪzd/ *adj* : small enough to be eaten in one bite ▪ *bite-size* pieces

bit•ing /'baɪtɪŋ/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

1 : unpleasantly cold ▪ a *biting* wind ▪ *biting* cold

2 : having a sharply critical and often clever quality ▪ *biting* accusations ▪ *biting* social commentary ▪ *biting* wit

bit•map /'bɪt,mæp/ *noun, pl* **-maps** [*count*] *computers* : an image which is stored as an arrangement of bits that represent each of the small dots that form the image

– **bit•mapped** /'bɪt,mæpt/ *adj*

bitten *past participle of* [1]BITE

[1]bit•ter /'bɪtɚ/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ✧ The form *bitterer* is almost never used to mean "more bitter," but the form *bitterest* is commonly used to mean "most bitter."

1 : having a strong and often unpleasant flavor that is the opposite of sweet ▪ Cocoa beans have a *bitter* flavor. ▪ The medicine had a *bitter* aftertaste.

2 : causing painful emotions ▪ *bitter* disappointments ▪ a *bitter* defeat : felt or experienced in a strong and unpleasant way ▪ We were struck by the *bitter* irony of the situation. ✧ A ***bitter pill*** or ***a bitter pill to swallow*** is something that is difficult or painful to accept. ▪ The defeat was a *bitter pill* for the team *to swallow*.

3 : angry and unhappy because of unfair treatment ▪ His betrayal had made her *bitter*. ▪ She was still *bitter* toward her ex-husband. ▪ He's the *bitterest* man I know.

4 : feeling or showing a lot of hatred or anger ▪ *bitter* enemies ▪ a *bitter* argument ▪ a *bitter* reply

5 : very cold ▪ a *bitter* wind ▪ *bitter* cold

to/until the bitter end : until the end of something that may be very bad, unpleasant, etc. ▪ I knew she would stand by me *to the bitter end*. ▪ He vowed that he would keep fighting *until the bitter end*.

– **bit•ter•ly** *adv* ▪ We were *bitterly* disappointed. ▪ He complained *bitterly* about the crowds. ▪ *bitterly* cold – **bit•ter•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

[2]bitter *noun, pl* **-ters**

1 ***bit•ters*** [*plural*] : a bitter alcoholic liquid that is used especially in mixed drinks ▪ The cocktail recipe called for a dash of *bitters*.

2 *Brit* : a type of beer that has a slightly bitter flavor [*noncount*] a pint of *bitter* [*count*] a good selection of *bitters*

bittersweet *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

1 : having both bitter and sweet flavors ▪ *bittersweet* chocolate

2 : combining sadness and happiness ▪ a *bittersweet* story ▪ *bittersweet* memories

bit•ty /'bɪti/ *adj*

1 *chiefly US, informal* : very small ▪ a little *bitty* [=*tiny*] room

2 *Brit, informal* : made up of many small parts that do not seem to fit together well ▪ a *bitty* and uneven book

bi•valve /'baɪ,vælv/ *noun, pl* **-valves** [*count*] *biology* : a sea animal that has a shell with two movable parts connected by a hinge ▪ clams, mussels, oysters, and other *bivalves*

– **bivalve** *adj* ▪ Clams and oysters are *bivalve* mollusks.

biv•ouac /'bɪvə,wæk/ *noun, pl* **-ouacs** [*count*] : a temporary camp or shelter

– **bivouac** *verb* **-ouacs**; **-ouacked**; **-ouack•ing** [*no obj*] ▪ The climbers *bivouacked* on a ledge of the cliff.

[1]bi•week•ly /baɪ'wi:kli/ *adj*

1 : happening every two weeks ▪ The *biweekly* [=(*chiefly Brit*) *fortnightly*] sales meeting is scheduled for every other Tuesday.

2 : happening twice a week : SEMIWEEKLY ▪ She attends *biweekly* classes and studies at the library every Saturday.

– **biweekly** *adv* ▪ The class meets *biweekly*.

[2]biweekly *noun, pl* **-lies** [*count*] : a biweekly publication : a magazine or newspaper that is published every two weeks

biz /'bɪz/ *noun* [*singular*] *informal* : BUSINESS ▪ the music *biz* ▪ She left the farm for a career in ***show biz***. [=*show business*]

bi•zarre /bə'zɑɚ/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : very unusual or strange ▪ His behavior was *bizarre*. ▪ I just heard the most *bizarre* story. ▪ She wore a *bizarre* outfit.

– **bi•zarre•ly** *adv* – **bi•zarre•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

blab /'blæb/ *verb* **blabs**; **blabbed**; **blab•bing** *informal*

1 : to say something that was supposed to be kept secret [+ *obj*] Don't tell Mary. She'll *blab* it all over town. [*no obj*] "How did she find out about the surprise party?" "Tom *blabbed*."

2 [*no obj*] : to talk too much ▪ He kept *blabbing* on and on about politics.

blab•ber•mouth /'blæbɚ,maʊθ/ *noun, pl* **-mouths** [*count*] *informal* : someone who reveals secrets or talks too much

[1]black /'blæk/ *adj* **black•er**; **-est**

1 a : having the very dark color of coal or the night sky ▪ *black* ink ▪ a *black* dress **b** : very dark because there is no light ▪ a *black* night

2 *or* ***Black*** : of or relating to a race of people who have dark skin and who come originally from Africa ▪ *black* people ▪ *black* culture ✧ In the U.S., the term *African-American* is often preferred over *black* when referring to Americans of African descent.

3 : very dirty ▪ His hand were *black* with grime.

4 : served without cream or milk ▪ *black* coffee

5 *literary* : evil or wicked ▪ a *black* deed — see also BLACK ART, BLACK MAGIC

6 a : very sad or hopeless : BLEAK ▪ The outlook was *black*. ▪ When they heard the terrible news, they were filled with *black* despair. **b** : very tragic or unhappy ▪ That was a *black* day in our country's history.

7 : marked by anger or hatred ▪ A *black* [=very angry] look darkened his face. ▪ *black* resentment ▪ a *black* mood

8 — used to describe humor that deals with subjects which are usually regarded as very serious or unpleasant ▪ The film is a *black* comedy set in a funeral home. ▪ *black* humor

– **black•ly** *adv* ▪ a *blackly* funny/comic/humorous movie – **black•ness** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the *blackness* of the night

[2]black *noun, pl* **blacks**

1 : the dark color of coal or the night sky [*noncount*] The wall was painted in *black*. ▪ the *black* of night [*count*] a mixture of grays and *blacks* — see color picture on page C1

2 [*noncount*] : black clothing ▪ She was dressed in *black*.

3 [*count*] : a person belonging to a race of people who have dark skin : a black person ✧ The singular form *black* in this sense is rarely used and is often considered offensive. It should be avoided. The plural form *blacks* is commonly used to refer to black people as a group or community. ▪ His policies are supported by both *blacks* and whites.

in the black : making a profit ▪ The company is finally *in the black*. [=the company is profitable] — compare *in the red* at [2]RED

[3]black *verb* **blacks**; **blacked**; **black•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 *old-fashioned + literary* : to make (something) black ▪ He *blacked* his boots with polish.
2 *Brit* : to refuse to work for or with (a business, employer, etc.) or to buy (goods, services, etc.) ▪ Labor union members have *blacked* the company.
black out [*phrasal verb*] **1** : to suddenly become unconscious ▪ What's the last thing you remember before you *blacked out*? [=*passed out, fainted*] **2** ***black (something) out*** *or* ***black out (something)*** **a** : to cover (something written) with a black or dark mark so that it cannot be read ▪ Someone had *blacked out* certain sections of the newspaper. **b** : to cause (a place) to become dark ▪ They *blacked out* the stage by turning off all the lights. **c** : to prevent the broadcast of (a televised sports event) — usually used as *(be) blacked out* ▪ Last night's game *was blacked out* in this area, so I couldn't watch it. — see also BLACKOUT

black–and–blue /ˌblækənˈbluː/ *adj* : having dark marks (called bruises) on your skin because of being hit or injured ▪ He beat me *black-and-blue*. [=he beat me until I was covered with bruises] ▪ She had *black-and-blue* marks [=dark bruises] all over her legs.

black–and–white /ˌblækənˈwaɪt/ *adj*
1 : partly black and partly white in color ▪ a *black-and-white* dog
2 : having, showing, or producing pictures that do not have colors except for black, white, and shades of gray ▪ She loves to watch old *black-and-white* movies. ▪ *black-and-white* wedding photos ▪ a *black-and-white* television set ▪ Did you put color or *black-and-white* film in the camera?
3 : involving a simple choice between things that are clearly opposite and especially between good and bad or right and wrong ▪ You are oversimplifying things if you only look at the situation in *black-and-white* terms. ▪ The truth is not always *black-and-white*.

black and white *noun*
in black and white **1** : in written or printed form ▪ I want to see it *in black and white*. **2** : in a way that involves a simple choice between two opposite things (such as good and bad or right and wrong) ▪ She sees everything *in black and white*. **3** : using equipment that produces only black-and-white pictures ▪ a movie filmed *in black and white*.

black art *noun, pl* ~ **arts** [*count*] : a skill or ability that seems mysterious or magical — often used humorously ▪ She's trying to master the *black art* of setting up a computer network.
the black arts : BLACK MAGIC ▪ She practices *the black arts*.

black•ball /ˈblækˌbɑːl/ *verb* **-balls**; **-balled**; **-ball•ing** [+ *obj*] : to prevent (someone) from joining a group, club, etc., by voting against him or her — often used as *(be) blackballed* ▪ He *was blackballed* by the fraternity.

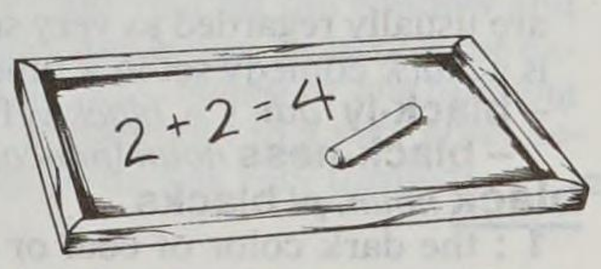
black bear *noun, pl* ~ **bears** [*count*] : a North American bear that usually has black fur — see picture at BEAR

black belt *noun, pl* ~ **belts** [*count*] : an expert in a martial art such as karate or tae kwon do ▪ She is a karate *black belt*.; *also* : the rank of such an expert ▪ He has a *black belt* in judo.

black•ber•ry /ˈblækˌberi/ *noun, pl* **-ries** [*count*] : a black or dark purple berry that is sweet and juicy; *also* : the plant that blackberries grow on — see color picture on page C5

black•bird /ˈblækˌbɚd/ *noun, pl* **-birds** [*count*]
1 : any one of several American birds with males that are mostly black
2 : a common European bird with males that have black feathers and an orange bill

black•board /ˈblækˌboɚd/ *noun, pl* **-boards** [*count*] : a smooth, dark surface that is used for writing on with chalk in a classroom — called also (*chiefly US*) *chalkboard*



blackboard

black box *noun, pl* ~ **boxes** [*count*] : a device used in an airplane to record flight information (such as altitude or airspeed) or the voices of the pilots and crew ▪ The *black boxes* were recovered from the crash site and provided useful information about the cause of the crash.

black death *noun*
the black death *or* ***the Black Death*** : a deadly disease (called bubonic plague) that spread through Asia and Europe in the 14th century

black•en /ˈblækən/ *verb* **-ens**; **-ened**; **-en•ing**
1 : to make something dark or black or to become dark or black [+ *obj*] Fire had *blackened* the field. [*no obj*] The sky *blackened* as the storm approached.
2 [+ *obj*] : to hurt the reputation of (someone or something) ▪ Their false accusations failed to *blacken* my reputation/name/character. ▪ a presidency *blackened* by scandal

black•ened /ˈblækənd/ *adj, of food* : coated with a mixture of hot spices and fried over very high heat ▪ *blackened* tuna

black eye *noun, pl* ~ **eyes** [*count*] : a dark area of skin around the eye caused by being hit hard ▪ He gave me a *black eye*. [=he punched me in the eye causing a dark bruise] — often used figuratively ▪ The scandal gave the team a *black eye*. [=the scandal caused people to think badly of the team]

black–eyed pea /ˈblækˌaɪd-/ *noun, pl* ~ **peas** [*count*] *chiefly US* : a type of small, light bean that has a dark spot on it — called also (*chiefly Brit*) *black-eyed bean*, (*chiefly US*) *cowpea*

black–eyed Su•san /ˈblækˌaɪdˈsuːzən/ *noun, pl* ~ **-sans** [*count*] : a North American flower with yellow or orange petals and a dark center

black•fly /ˈblækˌflaɪ/ *noun, pl* **-flies** *or* **-fly** [*count*] : a small fly that bites

black gold *noun* [*noncount*] *informal* : PETROLEUM, OIL ▪ After months of drilling, they finally hit/struck *black gold*.

black•guard /ˈblægəd/ *noun, pl* **-guards** [*count*] *old-fashioned + literary* : a rude or dishonest man : a man who deserves to be hated ▪ a cowardly *blackguard*

black•head /ˈblækˌhɛd/ *noun, pl* **-heads** [*count*] : a small, inflamed area on the skin with a dark spot in the middle

black hole *noun, pl* ~ **holes** [*count*] : an invisible area in outer space with gravity so strong that light cannot get out of it — often used figuratively ▪ The project turned out to be a financial *black hole*. [=something that constantly uses up a large amount of money without producing a good result]

black ice *noun* [*noncount*] : a thin layer of ice on a paved road that is very difficult to see ▪ Drivers should beware of *black ice*.

black•jack /ˈblækˌʤæk/ *noun, pl* **-jacks**
1 [*noncount*] : a card game in which the players try to get a score that is higher than that of the dealer but less than or equal to 21 — often used before another noun ▪ a *blackjack* table [=a table at which blackjack is played in a casino] — called also (*US*) *twenty-one*
2 [*count*] : a small leather-covered metal club used as a hand weapon

black•leg /ˈblækˌlɛg/ *noun, pl* **-legs** [*count*] *Brit, disapproving* : a person who works while other employees are on strike : SCAB

[1]black•list /ˈblækˌlɪst/ *noun, pl* **-lists** [*count*] : a list of people, organizations, etc., that are disapproved of or that are to be punished or avoided ▪ He's on the FBI's *blacklist*. ▪ The rental company has created a *blacklist* of bad drivers.

[2]blacklist *verb* **-lists**; **-list•ed**; **-list•ing** [+ *obj*] : to say that a person, company, etc., should be avoided or not allowed to do something : to place (someone or something) on a blacklist — often used as *(be) blacklisted* ▪ In the 1950s, many Hollywood film actors *were blacklisted* for suspected involvement with the Communist Party.

black magic *noun* [*noncount*] : magic that is associated with the devil or with evil spirits : evil magic ▪ He wore a special necklace to protect against *black magic*.

[1]black•mail /ˈblækˌmeɪl/ *noun* [*noncount*]
1 : the crime of threatening to tell secret information about someone unless the person being threatened gives you money or does what you want ▪ She was a victim of *blackmail*. — sometimes used figuratively ▪ He used ***emotional blackmail*** to get what he wanted from her. [=he unfairly made her feel guilty or upset to get what he wanted]
2 : something (such as money) that is received through blackmail ▪ The servant extorted *blackmail* from her employer.

[2]blackmail *verb* **-mails**; **-mailed**; **-mail•ing** [+ *obj*] : to use blackmail against (someone) ▪ The old man was being *blackmailed* by his nephew.
– black•mail•er *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]

Black Ma•ria /-məˈrajə/ *noun, pl* ~ **Ma•rias** [*count*] *Brit, old-fashioned* : PATROL WAGON

black mark *noun, pl* ~ **marks** [*count*] : something that makes something else less perfect or less appealing ▪ The suspension was a *black mark* on her record. ▪ His habitual tardiness was a *black mark* against him.

black market *noun, pl* ~ **-kets** [*count*] : a system through which things are bought and sold illegally ▪ The *black market* in prescription drugs is thriving. ▪ They unloaded the stolen goods on the *black market*.
– **black marketeer** *noun, pl* ~ **-teers** [*count*]

black·out /ˈblækˌaʊt/ *noun, pl* **-outs** [*count*]
1 : a period when lights are kept off or are hidden from view to guard against enemy airplane attack in a war ▪ the *blackouts* of World War II
2 : a period when lights are off because of an electrical power failure ▪ She keeps flashlights and candles handy in case of a *blackout*. — compare BROWNOUT
3 : a sudden and temporary loss of consciousness, vision, or memory ▪ He told his doctor he had been experiencing *blackouts*.
4 : a situation in which some kinds of information are deliberately kept from the public ▪ The government imposed a news *blackout* during the war.
– see also *black out* at ³BLACK

black pepper *noun* [*noncount*] : a food seasoning that is made by grinding the dried berries of an Indian plant along with their hard, black covers — compare WHITE PEPPER

black power *or* **Black Power** *noun* [*noncount*] : the use of political and economic power by African-Americans especially as part of a social movement to promote equality and racial justice in the 1960s — often used before another noun ▪ the *Black Power* movement of the 1960s

black pudding *noun, pl* ~ **-dings** [*count, noncount*] *Brit* : BLOOD SAUSAGE

black sheep *noun, pl* ~ **sheep** [*count*] : someone who does not fit in with the rest of a group and is often considered to be a troublemaker or an embarrassment ▪ She was the *black sheep* of the family.

black·smith /ˈblækˌsmɪθ/ *noun, pl* **-smiths** [*count*] : a person who makes or repairs things made of iron (such as horseshoes)

black spot *noun, pl* ~ **spots** [*count*] *Brit* : a dangerous place or a place where a particular problem or difficulty is very common ▪ The intersection is a notorious (accident) *black spot*.

black–tie *adj* — used to describe a formal social event at which men wear black ties and tuxedos and women wear formal dresses ▪ a *black-tie* dinner — compare WHITE-TIE

black·top /ˈblækˌtɑːp/ *noun* [*noncount*] *chiefly US*
1 : black material that is used for making roads ▪ road crews laying down *blacktop*
2 : a surface that is covered with blacktop ▪ cars lining the *blacktop*

black widow *noun, pl* ~ **-ows** [*count*] : a poisonous American spider ✧ The female black widow often kills and eats the male after they have mated. — called also *black widow spider*

blad·der /ˈblædɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ders** [*count*]
1 : the organ in the body that holds urine after it passes through the kidneys and before it leaves the body — see picture at HUMAN; see also GALLBLADDER
2 : a soft bag (such as the rubber bag inside a football) that is filled with water or air

blade /ˈbleɪd/ *noun, pl* **blades** [*count*]
1 : the flat sharp part of a weapon or tool that is used for cutting ▪ a knife *blade* ▪ the *blade* of an ax — see picture at CARPENTRY; see also RAZOR BLADE, SWITCHBLADE
2 : one of the flat spinning parts that are used on some machines to push air or water ▪ a propeller *blade*
3 : the wide flat part of an oar or paddle
4 : the sharp metal piece on the bottom of an ice skate — see picture at SKATE
5 : a single piece of grass or a similar plant ▪ a *blade* of grass
6 *literary* **a** : SWORD 1 ▪ an opponent worthy of my *blade* **b** : SWORDSMAN ▪ the best *blade* in the land
– see also SHOULDER BLADE

¹blah /ˈblɑː/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *chiefly US, informal*
1 : not interesting or unusual : dull or boring ▪ The hotel room was totally *blah*. ▪ a *blah* winter day
2 : without energy or enthusiasm ▪ She sat on the couch all day watching television and feeling *blah*.

²blah *noun, pl* **blahs** *informal*
1 ***the blahs*** *chiefly US* : a feeling of being bored, tired, etc. ▪ She had a bad case of *the blahs*.
2 [*noncount*] : silly or meaningless talk ✧ *Blah* is usually repeated to suggest that what someone is saying is unimportant or boring. ▪ He got tired of hearing his mother tell him to brush his teeth, clean his room, *blah, blah, blah*.

¹blame /ˈbleɪm/ *verb* **blames**; **blamed**; **blam·ing** [+ *obj*] : to say or think that a person or thing is responsible for something bad that has happened ▪ Don't *blame* me. You are responsible for your own problems. ▪ Don't *blame* me for your problems. = Don't *blame* your problems on me. ▪ The company *blames* the poor economy for its financial losses. = The company *blames* its financial losses on the poor economy. ▪ My father always *blames* everything on me. ▪ I *blame* the poor harvest on the weather.
blame the messenger see MESSENGER
have yourself to blame ✧ If you ***have only yourself to blame*** or ***have no one to blame but yourself***, then something is your fault and nobody else's. ▪ She *has only herself to blame* for her money problems.
not blame ✧ If you say that you ***wouldn't/don't/can't blame someone*** or ***can hardly blame someone***, you think that person has a good reason for doing something. ▪ After the way he treated you, I *wouldn't blame you* [=I would completely understand] if you never spoke to him again. ▪ You *can hardly blame her* for being angry.
to blame : responsible for something bad : deserving to be blamed for something. ▪ Who's *to blame* for these problems? ▪ He says he's not *to blame* for the delays. [=he did not cause the delays] ▪ Poor communication is at least partly *to blame*. [=*at fault*]

²blame *noun* [*noncount*] : responsibility for something that fails or is wrong ▪ It's not entirely his fault, but he's not completely free of *blame*, either. ▪ He deserves *blame* [=deserves to be blamed] for his careless behavior. — usually used with *the* ▪ *The blame* lies with me. [=I am at fault; I am to blame] ▪ It's not fair—she gets the credit when things go well, and I get *the blame* when they fail. ▪ Don't try to put/lay/pin *the blame* for your problems on me. ▪ The coach ***took the blame*** for the defeat. [=the coach said he was responsible for the defeat] — see also *the finger of blame* at ¹FINGER

blame·less /ˈbleɪmləs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : not responsible for a problem, bad situation, etc. : free from blame or fault ▪ The school is not *blameless* for the children's poor skills. ▪ An investigation showed that police were *blameless* in the man's death. ▪ a *blameless* [=*innocent*] life
– **blame·less·ly** *adv*

blame·wor·thy /ˈbleɪmˌwəði/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *formal* : deserving blame : bad or wrong ▪ His conduct was judged (to be) *blameworthy*. ▪ Their failure to adequately inform participants of the risks was morally/ethically *blameworthy*.

blanch /ˈblæntʃ, *Brit* ˈblɑːntʃ/ *verb* **blanch·es**; **blanched**; **blanch·ing**
1 [+ *obj*] : to put (food items) in boiling water or steam for a short time ▪ *Blanch* the potatoes before slicing them. ▪ a cup of *blanched* almonds
2 [*no obj*] : to suddenly have less color in your face because you are afraid, embarrassed, etc. ▪ She *blanched* and remained silent when the store owner accused her of taking the money. — often used figuratively ▪ Military leaders *blanched* at the thought of being asked to accept further funding cuts. [=they reacted in a way that showed they did not want to accept further cuts]

blanche see CARTE BLANCHE

blanc·mange /blə̇ˈmɑːnʒ/ *noun* [*count, noncount*] *Brit* : a cold, sweet dessert that looks like jelly formed into a shape

bland /ˈblænd/ *adj* **bland·er**; **-est**
1 : not interesting or exciting ▪ a *bland* [=*dull, boring*] film ▪ *bland* [=*uninteresting*] architecture
2 : lacking strong flavor ▪ The vegetable soup was rather *bland*. ▪ a *bland* diet = a diet of *bland* foods [=foods that are not spicy]
3 : showing no emotion, concern, etc. ▪ a *bland* expression/face ▪ The diplomat's *bland* statement did nothing to calm the situation.
– **bland·ly** *adv* – **bland·ness** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the *blandness* of the film/food

blan·dish·ments /ˈblændɪʃmənts/ *noun* [*plural*] *formal* : nice things that you say or do to convince someone to do something ▪ He found it hard to resist her *blandishments* and almost always ended up doing as she wished.

¹blank /ˈblæŋk/ *adj* **blank·er**; **-est**
1 a : without any writing, marks, or pictures ▪ a *blank* sheet of paper ▪ Leave that line *blank*. [=don't write on that line] ▪ a book with *blank* pages ▪ a *blank* wall — see also BLANK SLATE **b** : having empty spaces to be filled in with information : not yet written in or filled out ▪ a *blank* passport appli-

cation/form ▪ Sign your name on the ***blank line***. [=a line that marks a place where you should write something] — see also BLANK CHECK

2 : without any recorded sound or information ▪ a *blank* tape/disk/CD

3 : not showing any emotion ▪ She gave me a *blank* look [=did not show any emotion or response] when I asked her where she had been. ▪ a *blank* expression/stare

4 *always used before a noun* : stated in a very direct and certain way ▪ I was surprised by her *blank* refusal to loan me the money. ▪ a *blank* [=(more commonly) *flat*] denial — see also POINT-BLANK

go blank **1** : to suddenly stop showing letters, images, etc. ▪ The screen on my computer *went blank*. **2** ✧ If your ***mind goes blank***, you are unable to remember or think of something. ▪ My *mind went blank* when I heard the question.

– blank·ly *adv* ▪ She stared at him *blankly*. [=without any expression; her face showed no emotion] **– blank·ness** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the wall's *blankness* = the *blankness* of the wall

[2]blank *noun, pl* **blanks**

1 [*count*] : an empty space on a document where you put information ▪ The form has a *blank* for your signature. ▪ Please ***fill in the blanks***. [=put information in the blank spaces] — sometimes used figuratively ▪ At the end of the movie, the narrator goes back and *fills in* (all) *the blanks*. [=the narrator provides missing information about the movie's plot]

2 [*singular*] : a period of time that you cannot remember anything about ▪ He says that the first hour after the accident is a complete *blank*. [=he cannot remember anything that happened for an hour after the accident] ✧ If your ***mind is/draws a blank*** or if you ***draw a blank***, you are unable to remember or think of something. ▪ I should know the answer, but my *mind's a blank*. ▪ I *drew a blank* when I tried to remember his name.

3 [*count*] : a gun cartridge that is filled with powder but that does not contain a bullet ▪ The actors are shooting/firing *blanks*.

[3]blank *verb* **blanks; blanked; blank·ing** [+ *obj*]

1 *US* : to keep (the opposing team) from scoring ▪ The goalie *blanked* the Falcons for two periods in the hockey game.

2 *Brit slang* : to behave in an unfriendly way toward (someone you have been friendly with in the past) : to ignore or refuse to talk to (someone) ▪ His former friends *blanked* [=*cut, snubbed*] him in the street after the scandal.

blank out [*phrasal verb*] ***blank out (something) or blank (something) out*** **1** : to completely hide or cover (something) ▪ They *blanked out* [=*blacked out*] parts of the document before making it public. **2 a** : to cause (something) to be forgotten ▪ The injury *blanked out* parts of his memory. **b** : to completely forget (something) ▪ She has *blanked out* [=*blocked out*] what happened that night.

blank check (*US*) *or Brit* **blank cheque** *noun, pl* **~ checks** [*count*]

1 : a signed check that does not have the amount of money written on it yet

2 *informal* : complete control or freedom — often used in the phrase ***give/hand (someone) a blank check*** ▪ The director had a lot of creative freedom on this project; the film's backers essentially *handed him a blank check*. [=let him direct the film exactly the way he wanted to]

[1]blan·ket /ˈblæŋkət/ *noun, pl* **-kets** [*count*]

1 : a covering made of cloth that is used especially on a bed to keep you warm ▪ a wool *blanket* ▪ It's going to get cold tonight so you may need extra *blankets*. ▪ an electric *blanket* [=a blanket warmed by electricity] ▪ a ***beach blanket*** [=a blanket you sit on at the beach] — see picture at BED; see also SECURITY BLANKET

2 a : a mass *of* something that covers an area ▪ a *blanket of* snow/fog/ice ▪ a *blanket of* flowers/grass **b** : a general mood — usually singular ▪ A *blanket* of gloom spread over the crowd when they realized their team would lose.

– see also WET BLANKET

[2]blanket *verb* **-kets; -ket·ed; -ket·ing** [+ *obj*] : to cover (something) ▪ Ice was *blanketing* the bay. ▪ The fields were *blanketed* with flowers. ▪ Confetti *blanketed* the sidewalks.

[3]blanket *adj, always used before a noun* : affecting or applying to everyone or everything ▪ a *blanket* amnesty for all illegal aliens ▪ a *blanket* ban on use of the chemical ▪ The witness was given *blanket* protection from prosecution. [=the witness would not be prosecuted for anything]

blank slate *noun, pl* **~ slates** [*count*]

1 : someone or something that is still in an original state and that has not yet been changed by people, experiences, etc. ▪ She viewed her students as *blank slates*, just waiting to be filled with knowledge.

2 : something that does not show or express anything ▪ Her expression was a *blank slate*. [=it did not show any emotion]

blank verse *noun* [*noncount*] : poetry that is not rhymed but that has a regular rhythm ▪ the *blank verse* of Shakespeare and Milton — compare FREE VERSE

[1]blare /ˈbleɚ/ *verb* **blares; blared; blar·ing** : to make a loud and usually unpleasant sound [*no obj*] Rock music *blared* through the store from the loudspeakers. ▪ Sirens *blared* all night. — often + *out* ▪ Annoying commercials *blared out* from the television. [+ *obj*] Loudspeakers *blared* rock music through the store. — often + *out* ▪ The television *blared out* annoying commercials.

[2]blare *noun* [*singular*] : a loud and usually unpleasant noise ▪ the *blare* of electric guitars

blar·ney /ˈblɑɚni/ *noun* [*noncount*] *informal* : talk that is not true but that is nice and somewhat funny and that may be used to trick you ▪ She was charmed by his *blarney*. ▪ a tale with more than a hint of *blarney*

bla·sé /blɑˈzeɪ, *Brit* ˈblɑːˌzeɪ/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : having or showing a lack of excitement or interest in something especially because it is very familiar ▪ a *blasé* traveler ▪ People get *blasé* about their hometown. ▪ a *blasé* reaction

blas·pheme /blæsˈfiːm/ *verb* **-phemes; -phemed; -phem·ing** *formal* : to talk about God or religion in a way that does not show respect [*no obj*] He did not curse or *blaspheme*. ▪ people who have *blasphemed* against God [+ *obj*] people who have *blasphemed* God

– blas·phem·er *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]

blas·phe·my /ˈblæsfəmi/ *noun, pl* **-mies**

1 [*noncount*] : great disrespect shown to God or to something holy ▪ acts of *blasphemy* ▪ commit *blasphemy* — often used figuratively ▪ It's *blasphemy* to insult the local team.

2 [*count*] : something said or done that is disrespectful to God or to something holy ▪ She was condemned by the church for uttering *blasphemies*.

– blas·phe·mous /ˈblæsfəməs/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] ▪ *blasphemous* language ▪ Religious leaders declared that the book was *blasphemous*. **– blas·phe·mous·ly** *adv*

[1]blast /ˈblæst, *Brit* ˈblɑːst/ *noun, pl* **blasts** [*count*]

1 a : a mass of air that moves very quickly and forcefully ▪ She opened the door and felt a cold *blast*. ▪ a *blast* of wind **b** : a mass of water, gas, heat, etc., that moves very quickly and forcefully through the air ▪ He was hit by a *blast* of water from the hose. ▪ a *blast* of heat

2 : the loud sound made by a horn or a whistle ▪ The driver gave a long *blast* on his horn. ▪ the *blast* of the factory whistle ▪ a bugle *blast*

3 : a powerful explosion ▪ The bomb *blast* killed eight people. ▪ a shotgun *blast*

4 : a sudden powerful force ▪ She got a *blast* of reality when she returned to school in the fall. ▪ a *blast* of criticism

5 *informal* : a very enjoyable and exciting experience ▪ I had a *blast* at your party. ▪ The wedding was a *blast*.

blast from the past *informal* : something that reminds you of an earlier time ▪ Hearing that old song again was a real *blast from the past*.

full blast *informal* : with as much loudness or power as possible ▪ The engines were running (at) *full blast*. ▪ She turned up the heat *full blast*. ▪ The stereo was ***going full blast***. [=the stereo was very loud]

[2]blast *verb* **blasts; blast·ed; blast·ing**

1 a : to destroy, break apart, or remove (something) with an explosive [+ *obj*] Workers were *blasting* rock where the new highway will go. ▪ The rock has been *blasted* away. [*no obj*] Workers were *blasting* (away) at the rock. **b** [+ *obj*] : to create (a space or opening) with explosives ▪ The explosion *blasted* a hole in the side of the ship. ▪ *blast* a tunnel

2 [+ *obj*] : to strongly criticize (someone or something) especially in public ▪ The mayor was *blasted* by the local press. ▪ The judge *blasted* the lawyers for delaying the trial. ▪ Human rights groups have *blasted* the government for its treatment of political prisoners.

3 : to shoot (something or someone) with a weapon [+ *obj*] He *blasted* his rival with a pistol. ▪ A gunship *blasted* enemy headquarters. ▪ They *blasted* the enemy plane out of the sky. [*no obj*] Machine guns were *blasting*. ▪ The soldiers were *blasting* (away) at the advancing enemy.

4 [+ *obj*] : to hit (something or someone) with a mass of wa-

ter, air, etc., that is moving forcefully ▪ She *blasted* us with water from the hose. ▪ They used an air hose to *blast* dust off the machine.

5 [+ *obj*] : to hit or kick (something) with great force ▪ He *blasted* the puck past the goalie. ▪ She *blasted* the ball over the fence for a home run.

6 : to make a loud and usually unpleasant sound : BLARE [*no obj*] Their music was *blasting* all night. ▪ The television was *blasting* in the other room. [+ *obj*] A radio was *blasting* music in the next room.

blast off [*phrasal verb*] *of a missile, rocket, or spacecraft* : to leave the ground and begin flight ▪ The rocket will *blast off* tomorrow morning. — see also BLASTOFF

– **blast·er** *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] ▪ *Blasters* were hired to remove the rock. – **blasting** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ The actual construction of the road will begin after *blasting* is completed.

[3]blast *interj, informal* — used to express anger or annoyance ▪ ***Blast it***! I forgot my keys!

blasted *adj, informal*

1 *always used before a noun* : very bad or annoying ▪ I hate this *blasted* [=*damned*] weather.

2 : very drunk ▪ He got totally *blasted* at the party.

blast furnace *noun, pl* ~ **-naces** [*count*] : a large structure in which rock containing a metal is melted so that the metal can be separated from the rock

blast·off /ˈblæstˌɑf, *Brit* ˈblɑːstˌɒf/ *noun, pl* **-offs** [*count*] : the time when a rocket, missile, etc., begins to rise into the air : LAUNCH ▪ ten minutes until *blastoff* — see also *blast off* at [2]BLAST

bla·tant /ˈbleɪtn̩t/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : very obvious and offensive ▪ a *blatant* lie ▪ He showed a *blatant* disregard for the safety of other drivers. ▪ a *blatant* [=*flagrant*] attempt to bribe the judge ▪ *blatant* racial discrimination

– **bla·tant·ly** *adv* ▪ She had *blatantly* copied the text from another book. ▪ a *blatantly* false statement

blath·er /ˈblæðɚ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : foolish or dull talk or writing that continues for a long time ▪ listening to a lot of *blather* from politicians about who's to blame for the bad economy

– **blather** *verb* **-ers**; **-ered**; **-er·ing** [*no obj*] ▪ listening to politicians *blather* (on) about the bad economy – **blather·er** *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]

[1]blaze /bleɪz/ *noun, pl* **blaz·es**

1 [*count*] *somewhat formal* : an intense and dangerous fire ▪ The family escaped the *blaze*. ▪ Two people were injured in a restaurant *blaze* [=a fire in a restaurant] late last night.

2 [*singular*] : a very bright area of light or color ▪ a shining *blaze* of light ▪ a *blaze* of color in the autumn leaves

3 [*singular*] : a sudden appearance or expression *of* something : OUTBURST ▪ a *blaze of* fury ▪ a *blaze* of publicity/controversy ✧ A ***blaze of glory*** is a final important event just before someone or something is gone or dies. ▪ The soldier went down in a *blaze of glory*. [=the soldier died doing something important and worthy of great respect]

4 ***blazes*** *informal + somewhat old-fashioned* — used to make a statement or question more forceful ▪ It's ***hot as blazes***. [=it's very hot] ▪ ***What in blazes*** are you doing? ▪ (Just) ***Who the blazes*** do you think you are? ▪ ***How the blazes*** am I going to do that?

– compare [3]BLAZE

[2]blaze *verb* **blazes**; **blazed**; **blaz·ing** [*no obj*]

1 : to burn very brightly and intensely ▪ A fire *blazed* in the stove.

2 a : to shine very brightly ▪ The sun *blazed* down on us. **b** : to be extremely bright or colorful like fire ▪ The field was *blazing* [=*ablaze*] with flowers. **c** *of the eyes* : to show anger ▪ His ***eyes blazed*** with anger/fury.

3 : to shoot very quickly and constantly ▪ The assassins rushed into the crowd, with their guns *blazing*. — often + *away* ▪ The shooter was still *blazing away* with an automatic rifle.

4 : to move very quickly ▪ A comet *blazed* across the sky. ▪ He *blazed* past the other runners. ▪ The team *blazed* through the tournament. [=they easily defeated every opponent]

– compare [4]BLAZE

[3]blaze *noun, pl* **blazes** [*count*]

1 : a stripe of white fur on the center of an animal's face ▪ a horse with a white *blaze*

2 : a mark made on a tree to show a trail ▪ The trail was marked with yellow *blazes*.

– compare [1]BLAZE

[4]blaze *verb* **blazes**; **blazed**; **blazing**

blaze a trail **1** : to show a trail with marks on trees ▪ We followed *a trail* that others had *blazed*. **2** : to be the first one to do something and to show others how to do it ▪ The company *blazed a trail* with the first small computers. ▪ She *blazed a trail* for other women in politics. — see also TRAILBLAZER

– compare [2]BLAZE

blaz·er /ˈbleɪzɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : a jacket that is worn over a shirt and that looks like a suit jacket but is not part of a suit ▪ He wore a blue *blazer* and khaki pants. ▪ a wool skirt and matching *blazer*

blazing *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : very hot, fast, or powerful ▪ the *blazing* heat/sun ▪ She runs with *blazing* speed.

– **blaz·ing·ly** *adv* ▪ *blazingly* hot/fast

bla·zon /ˈbleɪzn̩/ *verb* **-zons**; **-zoned**; **-zon·ing** [+ *obj*] : EMBLAZON — usually used as *(be) blazoned* ▪ T-shirts *blazoned* with the team's name [=T-shirts that have the team's name clearly printed on them]

bldg. *abbr* building

[1]bleach /ˈbliːʧ/ *verb* **bleach·es**; **bleached**; **bleach·ing** [+ *obj*] : to remove color or dirt and stains from (hair, clothing, etc.) especially through the effect of sunlight or by using chemicals : to make (something) whiter or lighter in color ▪ Those pants will look nicer if you *bleach* them. [=use bleach to make them cleaner and whiter] ▪ bones *bleached* white by/in the sun ▪ She *bleached* her hair blonde.

[2]bleach *noun* [*noncount*] : a strong chemical that is used to make something clean or white

bleach·ers /ˈbliːʧɚz/ *noun* [*plural*] *US* : a set of benches arranged like steps for people to sit on while they are watching a sporting event or performance ▪ stadium *bleachers* — usually used with *the* ▪ The ball bounced into *the bleachers*. ▪ We cheered from our seats in *the bleachers*.

– **bleach·er** /ˈbliːʧɚ/ *adj, always used before a noun* ▪ We cheered from our *bleacher* seats.

bleak /ˈbliːk/ *adj* **bleak·er**; **-est**

1 : not warm, friendly, cheerful, etc. ▪ The weather is *bleak*. [=cold, rainy, dark, etc.] ▪ a *bleak* landscape ▪ a *bleak* [=*dismal*] movie about a prison ▪ a *bleak* [=*dreary*] concrete building with few windows

2 : not hopeful or encouraging ▪ The future looks *bleak*. [=*grim, depressing*] ▪ Their chances of winning the game were *bleak*. [=it was not likely that they would win the game] ▪ a *bleak* economic climate

– **bleak·ly** *adv* ▪ He stared *bleakly* at the rubble. – **bleakness** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the *bleakness* of the landscape

bleary /ˈbliri/ *adj* **blear·i·er**; **-est** : very tired and unable to see clearly ▪ She looked at me with *bleary* eyes.

– **blear·i·ly** /ˈblirəli/ *adv* ▪ She looked at me *blearily*.

bleary–eyed /ˈbliɚˌaɪd/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : having eyes that look very tired and watery ▪ *bleary-eyed* travelers

bleat /ˈbliːt/ *verb* **bleats**; **bleat·ed**; **bleat·ing**

1 [*no obj*] : to make the sound that a sheep or goat makes ▪ The lamb *bleated* as I approached.

2 *disapproving* : to speak or complain in an annoying way : WHINE [+ *obj*] "But why can't I go?" she *bleated*. [*no obj*] The labor union is always *bleating* about the management.

– **bleat** *noun, pl* **bleats** [*count*] ▪ the *bleat* of a lamb

bleed /ˈbliːd/ *verb* **bleeds**; **bled** /ˈblɛd/; **bleed·ing**

1 [*no obj*] : to lose or release blood because of a cut, injury, etc. ▪ She was *bleeding* from the/her face and hands. ▪ Her lip is *bleeding*. ▪ The man almost ***bled to death***. [=almost died because he lost too much blood]

2 [+ *obj*] : to remove blood from (a person) as part of a medical procedure that was done in past times ▪ Doctors used to *bleed* their patients in an effort to cure them.

3 [+ *obj*] : to remove air or liquid from something ▪ We *bled* air from the tank. ▪ You'll need to *bleed* the car's brake lines.

4 [*no obj*] **a** *of dye, ink, paint, etc.* : to spread from one area into another ▪ The shirt's colors might *bleed* [=*run*] if you wash it in hot water. **b** : to gradually spread into or become something else — usually + *into* ▪ Her professional life had begun to *bleed* [=*seep*] *into* her personal life. ▪ Reality *bleeds* [=*blends*] *into* fantasy as the story goes along.

5 [+ *obj*] *informal* : to take a lot of money from (someone) over a period of time ▪ He complained that his ex-wife was *bleeding* him of all his money. ▪ Many businesses complain that the new taxes are ***bleeding them dry***. [=are taking all their money] ▪ The country has been ***bled white*** by a greedy dictator. [=all the country's money and resources have been used up by a greedy dictator]

6 [+ *obj*] *informal* : to lose (money) continually ▪ The company was *bleeding* a million dollars a day.

your heart bleeds for see HEART

bleed•er /'bli:dɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] *Brit, informal*

1 *offensive* : a person (especially a man) who is very unpleasant ▪ Don't let those *bleeders* grind you down.

2 *sometimes offensive* : a man who you think is lucky, unlucky, etc. ▪ "I've won the lottery." "You lucky *bleeder*!"

[1]bleed•ing /'bli:dɪŋ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the process of losing blood ▪ She pressed on the wound to stop the *bleeding*. ▪ The procedure may cause ***internal bleeding*** [=loss of blood inside the body]

[2]bleeding *adj, always used before a noun, Brit, informal + offensive* — used to make an angry or critical statement more forceful ▪ Our neighbor is a *bleeding* idiot. [=our neighbor is very stupid]

bleeding–heart *adj, always used before a noun, disapproving* : feeling too much sympathy for people in society who you think do not deserve sympathy or help ▪ The conservative press calls him a ***bleeding-heart liberal***

[1]bleep /'bli:p/ *noun, pl* **bleeps** [*count*]

1 : a short, high sound made by an electronic device : BEEP ▪ the *bleep* [=*beep*] of an answering machine

2 *US, informal* — used in place of an offensive word ▪ What the *bleep* was that about?!

[2]bleep *verb* **bleeps; bleeped; bleep•ing**

1 [+ *obj*] *US* : to replace (offensive words on radio or television) with an electronic sound ▪ They *bleeped* half the words in the interview! ▪ The radio station *bleeped* (out) the swearwords.

2 [*no obj*] : to make a short, high sound : BEEP ▪ The monitor *bleeped*.

3 [+ *obj*] *Brit* : BEEP 2 ▪ The doctor is not in the office today, but I can *bleep* her for you.

bleep•er /'bli:pɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] *Brit* : PAGER

[1]blem•ish /'blɛmɪʃ/ *noun, pl* **-ish•es** [*count*]

1 : a mark that makes something imperfect or less beautiful : an unwanted mark on the surface of something ▪ The cream is supposed to prevent *blemishes* on the skin. ▪ The table had a few scratches and minor *blemishes*.

2 : a fact or event that causes people to respect someone or something less ▪ The book fails to mention any of the organization's many *blemishes*. ▪ The incident was/left a ***blemish on*** his record/reputation.

[2]blemish *verb* **-ishes; -ished; -ish•ing** [+ *obj*] : to make (something) imperfect or less beautiful : to hurt or damage the good condition of (something) ▪ A series of burn marks *blemish* the table's surface. ▪ The incident *blemished* his reputation. — usually used as *(be) blemished* ▪ Her face *was* wrinkled and *blemished*. ▪ His reputation *was blemished* [=*marred*] by the incident.

[1]blend /'blɛnd/ *verb* **blends; blend•ed; blend•ing**

1 [+ *obj*] : to mix (things) thoroughly and usually with good results ▪ *Blend* the fruit, yogurt, and milk (together). ▪ *blend* caramel with chocolate ▪ The music *blends* traditional and modern melodies. ▪ She *blends* psychology and crime in her new novel.

2 [*no obj*] : to exist together as a combination ▪ Psychology and crime *blend* (together) in her new novel. ▪ The flavor of the sauce ***blends well*** with the fruit. [=the sauce and fruit taste good together]

blend in [*phrasal verb*] **1** : to look like what is around you ▪ The fish settles on the sandy ocean bottom where it *blends in* perfectly. **2** : to look like you belong with a particular group ▪ She tried to *blend in* by dressing like the other girls. — often + *with* ▪ I've always found it difficult to *blend in with* my peers. **3** ***blend (something) in*** *or* ***blend in (something)*** : to add (something) to a mixture or substance and mix it thoroughly ▪ Mix the first three ingredients together, then *blend in* the cream. ▪ *Blend* the white paint *in* last.

blend into [*phrasal verb*] ***blend into (something)*** **1** : to gradually become the same as or part of (something) ▪ One color *blends into* another. ▪ where the city *blends into* the suburbs **2** : to look like (what is around you) ▪ The animal's dark fur enables it to *blend into* its surroundings. **3** : to look like you belong in (something) ▪ He tried to *blend into* the crowd. ▪ A good journalist can easily *blend into* a community.

– **blending** *noun* [*singular*] ▪ a *blending* of traditional French songs and punk rock ▪ a seamless *blending*

[2]blend *noun, pl* **blends** [*count*] : something produced by mixing or combining different things ▪ wool and cotton *blends* [=fabrics that are made of wool and cotton woven together] ▪ a *blend* of cream and eggs ▪ a *blend* of traditional and modern melodies

blended *adj*

1 : made from two or more kinds of a particular substance ▪ *blended* tobacco/coffee ▪ *blended* whiskies ▪ *blended* fabrics

2 : made by mixing substances together ▪ *blended* fruit drinks

blended family *noun, pl* ~ **-lies** [*count*] : a family that includes children from a previous marriage of the wife, husband, or both parents

blend•er /'blɛndɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : an electric kitchen machine that is used to cut food and ice into very small pieces and to make soft foods (such as fruits) into a liquid — called also (*Brit*) *liquidizer*; see picture at KITCHEN

bless /'blɛs/ *verb* **bless•es; blessed** /'blɛst/; **bless•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to make (something or someone) holy by saying a special prayer ▪ The priest *blessed* their marriage at the wedding. ▪ The water for the baptism has been *blessed*.

2 : to ask God to care for and protect (someone or something) ▪ The priest *blessed* the baby I held in my arms.

3 a — used in the phrase ***God bless*** to express good wishes or appreciation for someone or something ▪ May *God bless* this country. ▪ *God bless* modern medicine. [=thank God for modern medicine] — see also GOD BLESS YOU (below) **b** — used in phrases like ***bless his/her heart*** and ***bless him/her*** to express affection, appreciation, or understanding ▪ She tries so hard, *bless her heart*. ▪ My aunt Clare, *bless her*, watched the kids while we went out. ▪ Our cousin, *bless his heart*, is just so disorganized. — see also BLESS YOU (below)

4 : to provide (a person, place, etc.) *with* something good or desirable ▪ Nature has *blessed* the area *with* good soil and a sunny climate. — usually used as *(be) blessed* ▪ I have *been blessed with* good health and a wonderful wife and children. ▪ He *was blessed* [=*endowed*] *with* great speed as a runner.

5 : to give approval to (something) ▪ The committee has not yet *blessed* the plan.

bless my soul *old-fashioned* — used in speech to express surprise ▪ You decided to come see us after all. Well, *bless my soul*!

bless you *or* ***God bless you*** **1** — used in speech to express thanks or good wishes ▪ "I'll be happy to help in any way I can." "Oh, *bless you*! That's very kind of you." **2** — said to someone who has just sneezed

bless•ed /'blɛsəd/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

1 : having a sacred nature : connected with God : HOLY ▪ the *blessed* Trinity

2 *always used before a noun* : very welcome, pleasant, or appreciated ▪ The rain brought *blessed* relief from the heat. ▪ He spent his weekend in *blessed* freedom.

3 *informal + somewhat old-fashioned* — used to make a statement more forceful ▪ You don't know a *blessed* thing.

– **bless•ed•ly** *adv* ▪ The park was *blessedly* free of crowds.

– **bless•ed•ness** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ eternal *blessedness* in heaven

blessing *noun, pl* **-ings**

1 [*noncount*] **a** : approval that allows or helps you to do something ▪ He gave his *blessing* to the plan. [=he approved the plan] ▪ Presumably he was acting with the government's *blessing*. ▪ They got married without their parents' *blessing*. **b** : help and approval from God ▪ We asked the Lord's *blessing* on us and on our project.

2 [*count*] : something that helps you or brings happiness — usually singular ▪ My daughter is a *blessing* to me in my old age. ▪ E-mail can be a *blessing* if you travel a lot in business. ▪ It's a *blessing* that you came when you did. ✧ Something that is ***a blessing in disguise*** seems to be a bad thing at first but actually is a good thing. ▪ Not getting the job turned out to be *a blessing in disguise*, since she got a much better job soon afterward. ✧ If something is ***a blessing and a curse*** or ***a mixed blessing*** there are both good and bad things about it. ▪ Being famous can be *a blessing and a curse*. ▪ The promotion was really a *mixed blessing* because I'm now so busy that I don't have time to spend the extra income.

3 [*count*] : a short prayer ▪ He said a *blessing* before the meal.

4 [*noncount*] : the act of asking God to care for and protect someone or something ▪ The priest performed the *blessing* of the fishing boats.

count your blessings : to make a special effort to appreciate the good things in your life ▪ I try to remember to *count my blessings* every day.

blether *noun* [*noncount*] *Brit* : BLATHER

bleu see CORDON BLEU

blew *past tense of* [1]BLOW

[1]**blight** /ˈblaɪt/ *noun, pl* **blights**

1 [*count*] : a disease that makes plants dry up and die • *potato blight*

2 a [*count*] : something that causes harm or damage like a disease — usually singular • the *blight* of poverty in the city — usually + *on* • The abandoned factory is a *blight on* the neighborhood. **b** [*noncount*] : a damaged condition • the city's spreading urban *blight* • environmental *blight*

[2]**blight** *verb* **blights**; **blight•ed**; **blight•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to damage (plants) with a disease — usually used as *(be) blighted* • The apple trees *were blighted* by fungus.

2 : to damage (a thing or place) • Builders *blighted* the land with malls and parking lots.

– **blighted** *adj* • *blighted* areas of the city • a *blighted* industrial landscape

blight•er /ˈblaɪtɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] *Brit, informal*

1 : a person (especially a man) who is unpleasant • Just tell the *blighter* to leave you alone.

2 : a man who you think is lucky, unlucky, etc. • I feel sorry for the little *blighter*.

Blighty /ˈblaɪti/ *noun* [*noncount*] *Brit slang* — used as a name for England or Britain • She's glad to be back in old *Blighty*.

bli•mey /ˈblaɪmi/ *interj, Brit, informal* — used to express surprise or amazement • "I've won the lottery." "*Blimey*! I can't believe it!"

blimp /ˈblɪmp/ *noun, pl* **blimps** [*count*] : a large aircraft without wings that floats because it is filled with gas — compare HOT-AIR BALLOON, ZEPPELIN

[1]**blind** /ˈblaɪnd/ *adj* **blind•er**; **-est**

1 : unable to see • a *blind* person • He was born *blind*. • She is *blind* in one eye. [=she can see with one of her eyes but not with the other] • She ***went blind*** [=she became unable to see] at age 67. — see also COLOR-BLIND

2 : unable to notice or judge something — usually + *to* • He is *blind to* his son's faults. • Each party was *blind to* the other's concerns.

3 a *usually disapproving* : accepting the actions or decisions of someone or something without any questions or criticism • *blind* loyalty/allegiance/obedience • I'm not sure *blind* faith [=unquestioning belief] in our leaders is wise. **b** — used to describe strong emotions that make someone unable to think clearly or to act reasonably • a *blind* fury/rage

4 : done in a way that prevents participants, judges, etc., from seeing or knowing certain things that might influence them • a *blind* taste test [=a test in which people taste something without knowing what it is, who made it, etc.] • a *blind* clinical trial for the new medicine • *blind* auditions — see also BLIND DATE, DOUBLE-BLIND

5 : difficult for a driver to see • a *blind* driveway/drive • a *blind* curve — see also BLIND SPOT

(as) blind as a bat *informal* : unable to see well at all : having very poor vision • Without glasses I'm *blind as a bat*.

love is blind see [1]LOVE

not a blind bit *Brit, informal* : not even a very small amount : not the slightest bit • I told them what I wanted, but they *didn't* take *a blind bit* of notice. [=they didn't notice at all; they did not listen to me] • It does *not* make *a blind bit* of difference what you do. [=it does not matter at all what you do]

the blind : blind people : people who are not able to see • The agency provides assistance to *the blind*. ✧ The expression ***the blind leading the blind*** is used informally to describe a situation in which someone who is not sure about how to do something is helping another person who also is not sure about how to do it. • I'll try to help, but it's *the blind leading the blind* because I've never done this before either.

turn a blind eye : to ignore a problem instead of dealing with it • Corruption in the police force is rampant, but authorities are *turning a blind eye*. — often + *to* • Colleges can't afford to *turn a blind eye to* alcohol abuse.

– **blind•ness** *noun* [*noncount*] • a leading cause of *blindness*

[2]**blind** *verb* **blinds**; **blind•ed**; **blind•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to cause (someone) to be unable to see : to make (someone) blind • The accident *blinded* me in one eye. = The accident left me *blinded* in one eye. • She was *blinded* as a child in a terrible fire.

2 : to cause (someone) to be unable to see for a short time • I was *blinded* by the sun as I came around the corner.

3 : to cause (someone) to be unable to think clearly or to act reasonably • He was *blinded* by love. — often + *to* • Greed *blinds* them *to* everything except money. [=greed causes them to think and care about only money]

[3]**blind** *noun, pl* **blinds**

1 [*count*] : something that is used to cover a window from the inside of a room; *especially* : a roll of cloth or plastic that is hung at the top of a window and pulled down over the window — usually plural • Raise/lower/open/close the *blinds*. — see picture at WINDOW; see also VENETIAN BLIND

2 [*count*] *US* : a place where hunters hide from animals while they are hunting • a duck *blind* [=a place to hide when hunting ducks] — called also (*chiefly Brit*) *hide*

3 [*singular*] : something that is used to trick people or to prevent people from noticing a particular thing • Some say the investigation is a *blind* to keep the public's attention off the governor.

draw the blinds on see [1]DRAW

[4]**blind** *adv*

1 : without seeing outside of an airplane : using only a plane's instruments • They had to ***fly blind*** through heavy smoke.

2 *informal* : to the degree that you are unable to think clearly or to act reasonably • He was ***blind drunk***.

rob someone blind see ROB

blind alley *noun, pl* ~ **-leys** [*count*] : a narrow path between two buildings that can only be entered at one end — often used figuratively • Police had been down several *blind alleys* [=they had tried several methods that did not produce useful results] in the murder investigation before they found the evidence they needed.

blind date *noun, pl* ~ **dates** [*count*] : an occasion for two people who do not know each other to meet and decide if they may want to have a romantic relationship • She went out on a *blind date* with her friend's cousin.

blind•er /ˈblaɪndɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers**

1 *blinders* [*plural*] *chiefly US* : leather pieces that are placed on either side of a horse's head next to its eyes in order to keep the horse from seeing what is beside it • a horse wearing *blinders* — often used figuratively • Many parents ***put on blinders*** [=choose not to think about what might be happening] when their teenagers start staying out late. — called also (*chiefly Brit*) *blinkers*

2 [*singular*] *Brit, informal* : a very exciting or impressive performance or action in a game such as cricket or soccer • Their team ***played a blinder*** to beat us in the closing seconds of the match.

[1]**blind•fold** /ˈblaɪndˌfoʊld/ *verb* **-folds**; **-fold•ed**; **-fold•ing** [+ *obj*] : to cover the eyes of (a person) with a piece of cloth • The kidnappers tied him up and *blindfolded* him.

[2]**blindfold** *noun, pl* **-folds** [*count*] : a piece of cloth that covers the eyes

blindfolded *also* **blindfold** *adv* : with the eyes covered by a piece of cloth • He was led *blindfolded* into the woods. ✧ If you ***can do something blindfolded***, you can do it very well or easily because you have done it many times before. • She could find that house *blindfolded*.

– **blindfolded** *adj* • a *blindfolded* prisoner

blinding *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

1 : very bright or strong • a *blinding* color • a *blinding* headache [=a very painful headache]; *especially* : so bright or strong that you cannot see • the *blinding* light of the sun in her eyes • a *blinding* snowstorm

2 : very fast • His *blinding* speed makes him a great player.

– **blind•ing•ly** /ˈblaɪndɪŋli/ *adv* • *blindingly* bright • *blindingly* fast

blind•ly /ˈblaɪndli/ *adv*

1 : without seeing • She stumbled *blindly* in the dark.

2 : without noticing or seeming to see anything • The frightened children ran *blindly* from the house. • He stared *blindly* [=*blankly*] at the wall.

3 : without thinking or questioning • They *blindly* followed their leaders. • They were taught not to *blindly* obey, but to consider carefully what they were being told to do.

blind•man's bluff /ˈblaɪndˈmænz-/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a game for children in which a player whose eyes are covered with a piece of cloth tries to catch and identify the other players — called also *blindman's buff*

blind•side /ˈblaɪndˌsaɪd/ *verb* **-sides**; **-sid•ed**; **-sid•ing** [+ *obj*] *US*

1 : to hit (someone who is facing in another direction) sud-

denly and very hard ▪ The quarterback was *blindsided* just as he was about to throw a pass.

2 : to surprise or shock (someone) in a very unpleasant way ▪ We were all *blindsided* by the news of her sudden death.

blind side *noun, pl* ~ **sides** [*count*] : the side that is not the side you are facing ▪ He was hit on his *blind side*.

blind spot *noun, pl* ~ **spots** [*count*]

1 : an area around a car, truck, etc., that the driver cannot see ▪ When driving on the highway, you need to make sure no one is in your *blind spot* before changing lanes.

2 : a tendency to ignore something especially because it is difficult or unpleasant ▪ She has a *blind spot* concerning her son's behavior.

3 : a small area at the back of the eye that is not sensitive to light

[1]blink /ˈblɪŋk/ *verb* **blinks**; **blinked**; **blink•ing**

1 : to close and then open your eyes very quickly [*no obj*] She *blinked* when the light flashed. ▪ Her eyes *blinked* when the light flashed. [+ *obj*] She *blinked* her eyes when the light flashed. — compare WINK

2 [*no obj*] : to shine with a light that goes on and off ▪ The red light was *blinking*. [=*flashing*]

3 [*no obj*] : to show that you are surprised or upset ▪ Laura ***didn't (even) blink*** [=did not seem surprised or upset at all] when I told her that the car was gone. ▪ She *didn't (even) blink* at the news.

4 [*no obj*] : to show weakness in an argument or disagreement : to show that you are willing to agree to or accept what someone else wants or says ▪ When threatened, the government *blinked* [=*gave in*] and agreed to move the missiles. ▪ Both sides in the dispute are determined not to *blink* first.

before you can blink *informal* : very quickly ▪ This may hurt a little, but it'll be over *before you can blink*.

blink back tears *or* ***blink away tears*** : to prevent yourself from crying or to make your tears go away by blinking ▪ He *blinked back* (his) *tears* as he told us the bad news.

[2]blink *noun, pl* **blinks** [*count*] : the act of closing and then opening your eyes very quickly : the act of blinking

in the blink of an eye : very quickly ▪ He became famous, and then, *in the blink of an eye*, he was forgotten. ▪ She reappeared *in the blink of an eye*.

on the blink *informal* : not working properly ▪ The TV is *on the blink*.

blink•er /ˈblɪŋkɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers**

1 [*count*] *US, informal* : a light on a car, truck, etc., that goes off and on and that is used as a warning or as a signal that the vehicle will be turning ▪ Use your *blinker* [=*indicator*, (*US*) *turn signal*] when you turn.

2 ***blinkers*** [*plural*] *chiefly Brit* : leather pieces that are placed on either side of a horse's head next to its eyes : BLINDERS

blinking *adj*

1 : shining with a light that goes on and off ▪ a *blinking* yellow light

2 *always used before a noun, Brit, informal* — used to make an angry or critical statement more forceful ▪ Turn down that *blinking* music! It's driving me crazy!

blip /ˈblɪp/ *noun, pl* **blips** [*count*]

1 : a bright dot on the screen of an electronic device (such as a radar) ▪ The approaching ship appeared as a *blip* on the screen. — often used figuratively ▪ At that time, the organization was only a *blip* on the political radar screen. ▪ As a football player he wasn't even a *blip* on the radar screen. [=he was not important; no one had noticed that he was or could become a good player]

2 : a very short high sound made by an electronic device ▪ the *blips*, buzzes, and bleeps of a video game

3 : something that is small or unimportant or that does not last a long time ▪ The company's financial problems were just a temporary *blip*.

bliss /ˈblɪs/ *noun* [*noncount*] : complete happiness ▪ Their religion promises eternal *bliss* [=*joy*] in heaven. ▪ marital/wedded/domestic *bliss* [=complete happiness in marriage] ▪ Relaxing on the porch of our private villa was sheer *bliss*.

ignorance is bliss see IGNORANCE

bliss•ful /ˈblɪsfəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : extremely or completely happy : full of or causing bliss ▪ At first, their time together was *blissful*. ▪ He sat there in a *blissful* state of comfort. ▪ our *blissful* beach vacation ▪ a *blissful* setting for a wedding ▪ existing in ***blissful ignorance*** [=a state of not knowing and not wanting to know about unhappy things or possible problems]

– bliss•ful•ly *adv* ▪ They were *blissfully* happy. ▪ We were *blissfully* unaware/ignorant of the dangers ahead.

blis•ter /ˈblɪstɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ters** [*count*]

1 : a raised area on the skin that contains clear liquid and that is caused by injury to the skin ▪ She developed a *blister* on her heel where her shoe rubbed against it.

2 : a raised area on a surface (such as a painted wall) that is filled with air

– blister *verb* **-ters**; **-tered**; **-ter•ing** [*no obj*] My feet started to *blister*. [=to form blisters] ▪ The paint cracked and *blistered*. [+ *obj*] Her skin was *blistered* by the hot sun.

blis•ter•ing /ˈblɪstɚɪŋ/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : very harsh or powerful ▪ *blistering* heat/sun ▪ He received a *blistering* [=*scathing*] letter from his ex-wife. ▪ a hockey player with a *blistering* slap shot

– blistering *adv* ▪ a *blistering* hot day **– blis•ter•ing•ly** *adv* ▪ a *blisteringly* hot day

blithe /ˈblaɪθ, ˈblaɪð/ *adj* **blith•er**; **-est**

1 : showing a lack of proper thought or care : not caring or worrying ▪ He showed *blithe* disregard for the rights of others. ▪ He was *blithe* about the risks to his health.

2 *literary* : happy and without worry : CAREFREE ▪ a *blithe* spirit ▪ *blithe* enjoyment

– blithe•ly *adv* ▪ They *blithely* assumed there would be someone there to help them.

blith•er•ing /ˈblɪðɚɪŋ/ *adj, informal* : very foolish or stupid ▪ pages and pages of *blithering* nonsense ▪ a ***blithering idiot***

blitz /ˈblɪts/ *noun, pl* **blitz•es** [*count*]

1 : a military attack in which many bombs are dropped from airplanes

2 a : a fast and powerful effort ▪ The company is planning an advertising/marketing *blitz* for the new product. ▪ a *blitz* of publicity ▪ The movie flopped, despite the ***media blitz*** that accompanied its release. [=the movie failed even though a lot of information about it was on television, radio, in magazines, etc., all at once] **b** *Brit* : a sudden attack or effort to stop or end something — usually singular ▪ a *blitz* on tax evaders ▪ One of these days I'll ***have a blitz on*** the house. [=I will thoroughly clean the house]

3 *American football* : a play in which many defensive players rush toward the quarterback

– blitz *verb* **blitzes**; **blitzed**; **blitz•ing** [+ *obj*] The company has *blitzed* the country with advertising. ▪ The linebackers *blitzed* the quarterback. [*no obj*] A linebacker *blitzed* from the right side.

blitzed /ˈblɪtst/ *adj, US slang* : very drunk ▪ She was/got totally *blitzed* that night.

blitz•krieg /ˈblɪtsˌkri:g/ *noun, pl* **-kriegs** [*count*]

1 : a sudden and overwhelming military attack

2 : a fast and powerful effort : BLITZ ▪ a promotional *blitzkrieg*

bliz•zard /ˈblɪzɚd/ *noun, pl* **-zards** [*count*]

1 : a severe snowstorm that goes on for a long time ▪ We were snowed in by a raging/fierce *blizzard*.

2 : a large amount of something that comes suddenly — usually singular ▪ a *blizzard of* mail ▪ The audience confronted him with a *blizzard of* questions.

bloat *noun* [*noncount*] *chiefly US* : too much growth ▪ budget/bureaucratic *bloat* ▪ The company became an example of corporate *bloat*. [=it became too big]

bloat•ed /ˈbloʊtəd/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : very swollen : too full of liquid, gas, food, etc. ▪ a *bloated* body ▪ I felt *bloated* from eating too much. — often used figuratively ▪ The government is *bloated* [=too large] and inefficient. ▪ a *bloated* state budget ▪ He has a *bloated* ego.

– bloat•ed•ness *noun* [*noncount*]

blob /ˈblɑ:b/ *noun, pl* **blobs** [*count*] *somewhat informal*

1 : a usually small amount of something thick and wet ▪ a *blob* of paint

2 : something that does not have a regular shape ▪ That blue *blob* in the corner of the map is the lake we're headed for.

bloc /ˈblɑ:k/ *noun, pl* **blocs** [*count*] : a group of people or countries that are connected by a treaty or agreement or by common goals ▪ the communist *bloc* ▪ a voting *bloc* in the senate

[1]block /ˈblɑ:k/ *noun, pl* **blocks**

1 [*count*] : a solid piece of material (such as rock or wood) that has flat sides and is usually square or rectangular in shape ▪ a *block* of ice/cheese ▪ a wall built out of concrete/cinder *blocks* ▪ (*US*) kids playing with wooden *blocks* [=(*Brit*) *bricks*] — see also BUILDING BLOCK, CHOPPING BLOCK, STARTING BLOCK

2 [*count*] **a** : an area of land surrounded by four streets in a

city ▪ We took a walk around the *block*. ▪ She lived on our *block*. **b** *US* : the length of one city block ▪ The store is three *blocks* down on the right. ▪ Our hotel is a *block* from the ocean.

3 [*count*] : a large building divided into separate units (such as apartments or shops) ▪ an apartment *block* ✧ This sense of *block* is more common in British English than in U.S. English. ▪ a high-rise office *block* — see also BLOCK OF FLATS, CELLBLOCK, TOWER BLOCK

4 [*singular*] : something that stops the progress or achievement of something ▪ They put a *block* on future development of the area.

5 [*count*] *sports* : an action or movement that stops or slows down an opponent ▪ a shoulder *block* ▪ (American football) The lineman ***threw a block***. [=the lineman hit an opposing player to prevent him from making a tackle]

6 [*singular*] : something that stops a person from thinking about certain things ▪ a mental/emotional *block* — see also STUMBLING BLOCK, WRITER'S BLOCK

7 [*count*] **a** : a number of similar things that form a group ▪ We reserved a *block* of seats. ▪ She bought a large *block* of stock/shares in the company. **b** : an amount or section of something ▪ They played a half-hour *block* of music. ▪ We set aside a big *block* of time for the project. ▪ a *block* of text

chip off the old block see ¹CHIP

knock someone's block off see ¹KNOCK

new kid on the block see ¹KID

on the block *or* ***on the auction block*** : for sale at an auction ▪ Some valuable paintings went *on the block* today.; *broadly* : for sale ▪ Their business is now *on the block*.

²block *verb* **blocks**; **blocked**; **block•ing**

1 [+ *obj*] **a** : to be placed in front of (something, such as a road or path) so that people or things cannot pass through ▪ There's an accident *blocking* the road. ▪ The entrance was *blocked* by a gate. ▪ Blood clots have completely/partially *blocked* one of his arteries. — sometimes + *up* ▪ My nose is all *blocked* [=*stuffed*] *up*. ▪ Call a plumber. The sink pipe is *blocked* [=*clogged*] *up*. **b** : to place something in front of (something, such as a road) so that people or things cannot go into the area ▪ The protesters *blocked* the road with parked vehicles. — often + *off* ▪ Main Street has been *blocked off* [=*barricaded*] for the parade. ▪ The police *blocked off* the crime scene with yellow tape.

2 [+ *obj*] **a** : to stop (someone or something) from moving through or going by ▪ The ambulance was *blocked* by cars in the road. ▪ An accident was *blocking* traffic. **b** : to stop (something) from getting through to someone or something ▪ Could you move to the left, please. You're *blocking* my light. ▪ a shield that *blocks* the wind **c** : to be in front of (something) so that it cannot be seen ▪ The new building *blocks* [=*obstructs*] our view of the river.

3 [+ *obj*] **a** : to not allow (something, such as progress or an action) to occur ▪ Several senators are trying to *block* the passage of the bill. ▪ His vote *blocked* the treaty. ▪ The new law *blocks* the sale of liquor on Sundays. ▪ They made every effort to *block* her reelection. **b** : to be in the way of (something) ▪ *blocking* access to free health care

4 *sports* : to stop the movement of (an opponent, a shot, etc.). [+ *obj*] We practiced *blocking* our opponents. ▪ She *blocked* the shot! [*no obj*] He's getting better at *blocking*.

block in [*phrasal verb*] ***block in (someone or something)*** *or* ***block (someone or something) in*** : to put something in front of (someone or something) so that person or thing cannot leave ▪ My car is *blocked in*. = Somebody has *blocked my car in*. [=somebody has parked in a way that makes it impossible for me to move my car]

block out [*phrasal verb*] ***block out (something)*** *or* ***block (something) out*** **1** : to hide or cover something so that it cannot be seen, felt, or heard ▪ Clouds *blocked out* the sun. ▪ We put on music to *block out* the sound of the traffic. **2** : to force yourself not to think about (something) ▪ He tried to *block out* [=*forget*] the event. : to ignore (something) ▪ *blocking out* distractions

– **block•er** *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] ▪ He's one of the league's best *blockers*.

¹block•ade /blɑ'keɪd/ *noun, pl* **-ades** [*count*] : an act of war in which one country uses ships to stop people or supplies from entering or leaving another country ▪ a naval *blockade*

²blockade *verb* **-ades**; **-ad•ed**; **-ad•ing** [+ *obj*] : to place a blockade on (a port or country) : to stop people or supplies from entering or leaving (a port or country) especially during a war ▪ They *blockaded* the country's ports.

block•age /'blɑ:kɪʤ/ *noun, pl* **-ag•es**

1 [*count*] : something that stops something (such as blood) from moving through something (such as a blood vessel) ▪ He had surgery to open up *blockages* in his arteries.

2 [*noncount*] : the state of being blocked ▪ trying to prevent *blockage* of the artery

block and tackle *noun* [*singular*] : a simple machine that is used to help lift heavy objects and that consists of rope and boxes containing pulleys

block•bust•er /'blɑ:k,bʌstɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : something that is very large, expensive, or successful ▪ a 900-page *blockbuster* of a novel ▪ The actor starred in a *blockbuster* [=a very successful movie] last year. — often used before another noun ▪ a *blockbuster* movie ▪ a *blockbuster* product

block•head /'blɑ:k,hɛd/ *noun, pl* **-heads** [*count*] *informal* : a stupid person ▪ Don't be such a *blockhead*!

block letters *noun* [*plural*] *chiefly US* : capital letters ▪ The message was written in *block letters*. — called also (*Brit*) *block capitals*

block of flats *noun, pl* **blocks of flats** [*count*] *Brit* : APARTMENT BUILDING

block party *noun, pl* ~ **-ties** [*count*] *US* : a party that is held outdoors for all the people who live in a neighborhood or city block

blocky /'blɑ:ki/ *adj* **block•i•er**; **-est** : short and thick ▪ a baseball player with a *blocky* [=(more commonly) *stocky*] body/build ▪ a shoe with a thick, *blocky* heel

blog /'blɑ:g/ *noun, pl* **blogs** [*count*] : a Web site on which someone writes about personal opinions, activities, and experiences

– **blog•ger** *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] – **blog•ging** *noun* [*noncount*]

bloke /'bloʊk/ *noun, pl* **blokes** [*count*] *chiefly Brit, informal* : a man ▪ I'm just an ordinary *bloke*. [=*guy*, *fellow*, *chap*]

¹blond *or* **blonde** /'blɑ:nd/ *adj* **blond•er**; **-est**

1 : of a yellow or very light brown color ▪ long *blond* hair ▪ *blonde* curls/locks/braids ▪ She has *blonde* highlights in her hair. ▪ His hair was dyed/bleached *blond*.; *also* : having blond hair ▪ a *blond* actor ▪ She was *blonde* as a child. ✧ When used to describe a boy or man, the word is spelled *blond*. When used for a girl or woman, the word is often spelled *blonde*. ✧ A person with ***dirty blond*** hair has very dark blond hair that is almost light brown in color. — see also PLATINUM BLONDE, STRAWBERRY BLONDE

2 : of a very light color ▪ a table made of *blond* wood

²blond *or* **blonde** *noun, pl* **blondes** [*count*] : a person who has yellow or very light brown hair ✧ The word is spelled *blond* when used for a boy or man, and it is usually spelled *blonde* when used for a girl or woman. ▪ He's a tall, blue-eyed *blond*. ▪ She's a natural *blonde*. [=her hair has not been dyed blonde] ▪ a ***bottle/bleached/peroxide blonde*** [=someone whose hair has been made blond through the use of chemicals] — see also PLATINUM BLONDE, STRAWBERRY BLONDE

blood /'blʌd/ *noun* [*noncount*]

1 : the red liquid that flows through the bodies of people and animals ▪ The accident victim has already lost a lot of *blood*. ▪ the *blood* in your veins ▪ She ***donates/gives blood*** twice a year. [=twice a year she has blood taken out of her body so that it can be put into the body of a person who needs it] — see also BAD BLOOD, COLD-BLOODED, FULL-BLOODED, HOT-BLOODED, RED-BLOODED, WARM-BLOODED

2 — used to say that a person's ancestors were of a particular kind ▪ There's some Italian *blood* in her family. [=one or more of her family's ancestors was Italian] ▪ a man of royal *blood* [=a man with kings and queens in his family] — see also BLUE BLOOD, BLUE-BLOODED

3 : members of a team, company, or organization — usually used in the phrases ***new blood*** or ***young blood*** ▪ Our company could benefit from some *new blood*. [=new employees] ▪ We've just added some *young blood* to the team.

blood and guts see ¹GUT

blood is thicker than water ✧ The saying *blood is thicker than water* means that a person's family is more important than a person's other relationships or needs.

blood is up ✧ In British English, when you say that someone's *blood is up*, you mean that someone is angry and wants to fight or argue. ▪ It's best to avoid her when her *blood is up*.

blood on your hands ✧ If someone's *blood is on your hands*, you are responsible for that person's death. ▪ Her *blood is on your hands*!

by blood : by a relationship that connects two people through their natural parents, grandparents, etc. ▪ My aunt

and I are ***related by blood***. [=my aunt is the sister of one of my parents] ▪ My aunt and I are not ***related by blood***. [=my aunt is/was married to the brother of one of my parents]

draw blood **1** : to take blood from a person's body for medical reasons ▪ We need to *draw* some *blood* to test you for the virus. **2** : to cause blood to flow from a person's body ▪ The punch to the nose *drew blood*. [=caused the nose to bleed] — sometimes used figuratively ▪ Some politicians view debates as chances to *draw blood* from their opponents.

flesh and blood see ¹FLESH

in cold blood : in a deliberate way : following a plan ▪ They were killed *in cold blood* by terrorists.

in your blood ✧ If something (such as an ability or activity) is *in your blood*, it is part of your nature and is often shared by your family members. ▪ With two parents who are painters, art is *in her blood*.

make someone's blood boil : to make someone very angry ▪ His hate-filled speeches *make my blood boil*! [=*make me see red*]

make someone's blood curdle *or* ***make someone's blood run cold*** : to cause someone to be very afraid or disgusted ▪ The horrible news *made our blood run cold*. ▪ a ghost story that will *make your blood curdle* ▪ The mere sight of a cockroach *makes my blood curdle*.

out for blood ✧ If you are *out for blood* or *out for someone's blood*, you are very angry and you want to kill someone or to cause someone pain or discomfort. ▪ Those soldiers were *out for blood*. ▪ His ex-wife is *out for his blood*.

spill/shed blood : to kill people violently ▪ The *blood* of too many young people *has been spilled/shed*.

sweat blood *informal* : to care a lot about something and work very hard for it ▪ basketball players who *sweat blood* for their teams

taste blood *informal* : to experience pleasure as a result of defeating an opponent ▪ She has *tasted blood* now, and can't wait to meet her rival on the court again.

blood bank *noun, pl* ~ **banks** [*count*] : a place where blood is stored so that it later can be given to people who are ill

blood•bath /ˈblʌdˌbæθ, *Brit* ˈblʌdˌbɑːθ/ *noun, pl* **-baths** [*count*] : a violent and cruel killing of many people ▪ Thousands of people were murdered in the *bloodbath*. — sometimes used figuratively ▪ The presidential race has become a political *bloodbath*.

blood brother *noun, pl* ~ **-ers** [*count*] : a man or boy who has promised to be loyal to another man or boy usually in a ceremony in which they mix their blood ▪ He would never betray me—he's my *blood brother*.

blood cell *noun, pl* ~ **cells** [*count*] : a cell that is normally present in blood — see also RED BLOOD CELL, WHITE BLOOD CELL

blood clot *noun, pl* ~ **clots** [*count*] : a thick and sticky clump of dried blood that stops blood from flowing through a blood vessel in a person or an animal ▪ She had a *blood clot* in her lungs. — called also *clot*

blood count *noun, pl* ~ **counts** [*count*] : the number of cells in someone's blood — usually singular ▪ The patient has a low *blood count*.

blood•cur•dling /ˈblʌdˌkɚdlɪŋ/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : causing great horror or fear ▪ We heard *bloodcurdling* [=*horrifying*] stories about the war. ▪ *bloodcurdling* [=*terrifying*] screams

blood doping *noun* [*noncount*] : an illegal method for temporarily improving an athlete's performance in a race or competition by increasing the number of red blood cells in the blood

blood feud *noun, pl* ~ **feuds** [*count*] : a very long fight between two families or groups in which each group kills members of the other group in order to punish the group for earlier murders

blood group *noun, pl* ~ **groups** [*count*] : BLOOD TYPE

blood heat *noun* [*singular*] *Brit* : the normal temperature of the human body ✧ In U.S. English, this temperature (98.6 degrees Fahrenheit or 37 degrees Celsius) is referred to as a person's normal ***body temperature***.

blood•hound /ˈblʌdˌhaʊnd/ *noun, pl* **-hounds** [*count*] : a large dog that has very long ears and a very good sense of smell and that is often used for finding people and for hunting

blood•ied /ˈblʌdid/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : covered in blood : made bloody ▪ Their faces were *bloodied* and bruised.

blood•less /ˈblʌdləs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]
1 : done without killing people ▪ He fought his *bloodless* battles in the courtroom. ▪ They took control of the government in a *bloodless* coup.
2 : lacking feeling or emotion ▪ Her speeches are dull and *bloodless*. ▪ a bunch of *bloodless* numbers and statistics
3 : pale in color ▪ His face was *bloodless* with fear.
– **blood•less•ly** *adv*

blood•let•ting /ˈblʌdˌlɛtɪŋ/ *noun, pl* **-tings**
1 [*noncount*] **a** : the former practice of taking some blood out of the bodies of sick people to heal them **b** : the practice of causing someone to bleed as part of a religious ceremony ▪ They practiced ritual *bloodletting*.
2 [*noncount*] : the killing of people ▪ They prayed for an end to the *bloodletting*. [=(more commonly) *bloodshed*]
3 : the act of reducing the number of workers in a company [*noncount*] We survived last year's *bloodletting*. [=we were able to keep our jobs] [*count*] a corporate *bloodletting*

blood•line /ˈblʌdˌlaɪn/ *noun, pl* **-lines** [*count*] : the ancestors of a person or animal ▪ her family's German *bloodlines* ▪ the *bloodlines* of racehorses

blood•lust /ˈblʌdˌlʌst/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the desire to kill or to see people killed ▪ soldiers inflamed by *bloodlust*

blood money *noun* [*noncount*]
1 : money wrongly obtained by killing someone or because someone has died ▪ the *blood money* earned by people who profited from the tragedy
2 : money paid to the family of a person who has been killed ▪ They accepted *blood money* in exchange for the murderer's execution.

blood orange *noun, pl* ~ **-ang•es** [*count*] : an orange (sense 1) that is red inside the skin

blood platelet *noun, pl* ~ **-lets** [*count*] : PLATELET

blood poisoning *noun* [*noncount*] *medical* : a serious condition in which harmful bacteria spread throughout a person's blood

blood pressure *noun, pl* ~ **-sures** : the force with which blood moves through a person's body [*noncount*] The doctor says he has high *blood pressure*. ▪ These drugs help lower *blood pressure*. [*count*] She has a *blood pressure* of 120/80.

blood–red *adj* : dark red like the color of blood ▪ *blood-red* lips

blood relative *noun, pl* ~ **-tives** [*count*] *US* : someone who has the same parents or ancestors as you ▪ Your sister is your *blood relative*, but your brother-in-law is not. — called also (*Brit*) *blood relation*

blood sausage *noun, pl* ~ **-sag•es** [*count*] : a very dark sausage that contains a lot of blood — called also *black pudding, blood pudding*

blood•shed /ˈblʌdˌʃɛd/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the killing of people especially in a war ▪ Years of violence and *bloodshed* have left much of the country in ruins.

blood•shot /ˈblʌdˌʃɑːt/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *of eyes* : having many red lines from lack of sleep, drunkenness, etc. ▪ He had *bloodshot* eyes. = His eyes were *bloodshot*.

blood sport *noun, pl* ~ **sports** [*count*] : a sport (such as hunting) in which birds or animals are killed

blood•stain /ˈblʌdˌsteɪn/ *noun, pl* **-stains** [*count*] : a spot of blood on something (such as a piece of clothing)
– **blood•stained** /ˈblʌdˌsteɪnd/ *adj* ▪ a *bloodstained* carpet

blood•stock /ˈblʌdˌstɑːk/ *noun* [*noncount*] : horses that are bred for racing

blood•stream /ˈblʌdˌstriːm/ *noun* [*singular*] : the flow of blood that moves through the heart and body ▪ The drug is now entering the *bloodstream*.

blood•suck•er /ˈblʌdˌsʌkɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]
1 : an animal (such as a leech or mosquito) that sucks the blood of other animals
2 *informal* : a person who unfairly takes or uses things that other people worked for ▪ Our landlord, the *bloodsucker*, just raised our rent again.
– **blood•suck•ing** /ˈblʌdˌsʌkɪŋ/ *adj, always used before a noun* ▪ *bloodsucking* insects ▪ our *bloodsucking* landlord

blood sugar *noun* [*noncount*] : the amount of sugar in your blood ▪ As a diabetic, he needs his *blood sugar* to stay at the right levels.

blood test *noun, pl* ~ **tests** [*count*] : a test of the blood especially to learn if a person has any diseases or conditions (such as AIDS or high cholesterol) ▪ He had a *blood test*, and the doctor who did it said his cholesterol was too high.

blood•thirsty /ˈblʌdˌθɚsti/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : eager to

hurt or kill : enjoying the sight of violence or bloodshed ▪ *bloodthirsty* soldiers
– **blood·thirst·i·ness** /ˈblʌdˌθəstinəs/ *noun* [*noncount*]

blood transfusion *noun, pl* ~ **-sions** [*count*] : a medical treatment in which someone's blood is put into the body of another person

blood type *noun, pl* ~ **types** [*count*] *chiefly US* : one of the eight different blood categories into which humans are separated ✧ These categories of blood are labeled A, B, AB, or O and each of these is either Rh-positive or Rh-negative. ▪ Her *blood type* is B negative. — called also *blood group*

blood vessel *noun, pl* ~ **-sels** [*count*] : a small tube that carries blood to different parts of a person or animal's body ✧ Arteries, veins, and capillaries are kinds of *blood vessels*.

[1]bloody /ˈblʌdi/ *adj* **blood·i·er**; **-est** [*also more* ~; *most* ~]
1 : bleeding or covered with blood ▪ He hit me and gave me a *bloody* nose. ▪ a *bloody* towel ▪ a *bloody* knife
2 : violent and causing the death or injury of many people ▪ a *bloody* battle/war/revolution — see also *scream bloody murder* at [1]SCREAM
3 *always used before a noun, Brit, informal + sometimes offensive* — used to make an angry or critical statement more forceful ▪ He's a *bloody* [=*damned*] fool! ▪ We had to read the whole *bloody* thing.
bloody hell *Brit, informal + offensive* — used to express anger or annoyance ▪ *Bloody hell* [=*damn it*]—I've lost my key again! ▪ How ***the bloody hell*** did you hear that?
– **blood·i·ly** /ˈblʌdəli/ *adv* ▪ The battle was won *bloodily*.

[2]bloody *adv, Brit, informal + sometimes offensive* : VERY, EXTREMELY — used to make an angry or critical statement more forceful ▪ a *bloody* awful mistake ▪ We all had a *bloody* good time. ▪ It was *bloody* marvellous! ▪ "Can I borrow your car again?" "***Not bloody likely!***" [=no, absolutely not]
bloody well *informal + sometimes offensive* — used before a verb to stress anger, annoyance, or disapproval ▪ I'm your father and you'll *bloody well* do as you're told!

[3]bloody *verb* **blood·ies**; **blood·ied**; **bloody·ing** [+ *obj*] : to make (something) bloody ▪ He hit me and *bloodied* my nose. — see also BLOODIED

Bloody Mary /-ˈmeri/ *noun, pl* ~ **Marys** [*count*] : an alcoholic drink made with vodka, tomato juice, and usually spices

bloody–mind·ed /ˌblʌdiˈmaɪndəd/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *chiefly Brit, informal* : difficult to deal with : not willing to help others do things ▪ Stop being so *bloody-minded* and give me a hand here!
– **bloody–mind·ed·ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

[1]bloom /ˈbluːm/ *noun, pl* **blooms**
1 [*count*] : [1]FLOWER 1 ▪ The plant's purple *blooms* attract butterflies. ▪ He picked a red *bloom* [=*blossom*] for her hair.
2 [*count*] : a time period in which a plant has many open flowers ▪ roses with an early spring *bloom*
3 [*noncount*] : a state or time of beauty, health, and strength ▪ the *bloom* of youth
come in/into bloom see [1]COME
in bloom *or* ***in full bloom*** : having flowers ▪ The bushes should be *in bloom* [=*in flower; flowering; blooming*] soon. ▪ These plants are very fragrant when they are *in full bloom*.

[2]bloom *verb* **blooms**; **bloomed**; **bloom·ing** [*no obj*]
1 : to produce flowers ▪ trees that *bloom* [=*blossom, flower*] in the spring ▪ flowers *blooming* in the garden
2 : to change, grow, or develop fully ▪ Their love was just beginning to *bloom*. ▪ their *blooming* romance

bloom·er /ˈbluːmɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]
1 : a plant that blooms at a specified time ▪ These plants are spring *bloomers*. [=they have flowers in the spring] ▪ plants that are early/late *bloomers*
2 *Brit, informal + somewhat old-fashioned* : an embarrassing mistake ▪ The politician's *bloomer* [=(*US*) *blooper*] was shown on every TV channel.
late bloomer *US* : someone who becomes successful, attractive, etc., at a later time in life than other people ▪ She was a *late bloomer* as a writer.

bloo·mers /ˈbluːmɚz/ *noun* [*plural*] : long and loose underpants worn by women and girls especially in the past

bloom·ing /ˈbluːmən/ *adj, always used before a noun, Brit, informal* — used to make an angry or critical statement more forceful ▪ We had to read the whole *blooming* thing! ▪ Don't be a *blooming* idiot!
– **blooming** *adv, Brit, informal* ▪ It's *blooming* marvellous!

bloop·er /ˈbluːpɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] *US* : an embarrassing mistake usually made in public ▪ The politician's *blooper* [=(*Brit*) *bloomer*] was shown on every TV channel.

[1]blos·som /ˈblɑːsəm/ *noun, pl* **-soms** [*count*] : a flower especially of a fruit tree ▪ Her hair smelled of apple/cherry/orange *blossoms*. ▪ delicate pink *blossoms* [=*blooms*]

[2]blossom *verb* **-soms**; **-somed**; **-som·ing** [*no obj*]
1 : to produce flowers ▪ The trees have finished *blossoming*. [=*blooming, flowering*]
2 : to change, grow, and develop fully ▪ Their friendship began to *blossom* [=*bloom, flower, flourish*] during the summer. ▪ Their friendship *blossomed* into romance. ▪ Their business seemed to *blossom* [=*take off*] overnight. ▪ a *blossoming* romance ▪ a *blossoming* talent

[1]blot /ˈblɑːt/ *verb* **blots**; **blot·ted**; **blot·ting** [+ *obj*] : to dry (something, such as wet ink) by pressing a piece of cloth or paper over it ▪ Don't rub the wine stain. *Blot* it dry with a paper towel. ▪ *Blot* your lipstick with a tissue.
blot out [*phrasal verb*] ***blot out (something) or blot (something) out*** : to hide or block (something): such as **a** : to make (something) difficult to see ▪ Clouds *blotted out* the sun. **b** : to try to forget (an event or memory) ▪ *blotting out* memories of your childhood
blot your copybook *Brit, informal* : to harm your own reputation ▪ The star football player *blotted his copybook* by using bad language in an interview.

[2]blot *noun, pl* **blots** [*count*]
1 a : a spot or stain ▪ a *blot* of ink [=an ink blot] **b** : something that makes something else dirty or unattractive ▪ The tower is a *blot* on the landscape.
2 : a mark of shame or dishonor ▪ Slavery is a *blot* on the nation's history.

blotch /ˈblɑːʧ/ *noun, pl* **blotch·es** [*count*] : a usually dark-colored spot especially on the skin ▪ She has brown *blotches* [=*splotches*] on her hands. ▪ *blotches* on the tree's leaves
– **blotched** /ˈblɑːʧt/ *adj, Brit* ▪ leaves *blotched* with brown spots – **blotchy** /ˈblɑːʧi/ *adj* **blotch·i·er**; **-est** [*or more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ *blotchy* skin

blot·ter /ˈblɑːtɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ters** [*count*]
1 : a large piece of blotting paper that is placed in a stiff frame on top of a desk
2 : a book used in a police station for writing down information about people or events ▪ a police *blotter*

blotting paper *noun* [*noncount*] : a soft, thick paper used to dry wet ink

blot·to /ˈblɑːtoʊ/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *slang* : very drunk ▪ He came home *blotto* after the party. ▪ She got *blotto* on cheap wine.

blouse /ˈblaʊs/ *noun, pl* **blous·es** /ˈblaʊsəz/ [*count*] : an often somewhat formal shirt for women and girls ▪ She wore a *blouse* and a skirt to work. — see color picture on page C14

[1]blow /ˈbloʊ/ *verb* **blew** /ˈbluː/; **blown** /ˈbloʊn/; **blow·ing**
1 a [*no obj*] *of air, wind, etc.* : to move with speed or force ▪ The wind was *blowing* earlier but it's not *blowing* now. [=there was wind earlier but there isn't any wind now] ▪ The wind is *blowing* hard. = It's *blowing* hard outside. ▪ The storm is *blowing* hard/fiercely. = It's *blowing* up a storm. ▪ A cool breeze *blew* through the open window. ▪ The wind was *blowing* from the north. **b** [+ *obj*] : to cause (air or something carried by air) to move ▪ The fan *blew* the air. ▪ The fan *blew* the smoke out the window. **c** : to be moved or affected in a specified way by the wind [*no obj*] The door *blew* open/shut in the wind. ▪ The papers *blew* all over the place! ▪ The sign *blew* down/over. ▪ The leaves were *blowing* around in the wind. ▪ His hat *blew* off/away in the wind. [+ *obj*] The breeze *blew* my wet hair dry. ▪ The wind *blew* the door open/shut. ▪ The wind *blew* the sign down/over. ▪ The wind *blew* the ship off course. ▪ A gust of wind *blew* the papers all over the room. ▪ The wind *blew* his hat off/away.
2 a : to create a current of moving air by breathing [*no obj*] She *blew* on her fingers to warm them. ▪ He was *blowing* on his soup to cool it off. [+ *obj*] She *blew* air into the balloon. **b** [+ *obj*] : to produce or shape (something, such as a bubble) by blowing air ▪ The clown was *blowing* bubbles for the children. ▪ *blow* beautiful shapes out of glass = *blow* glass into beautiful shapes — see also GLASSBLOWING
3 a [*no obj*] *of a musical instrument, whistle, etc.* : to produce a loud sound ▪ The trumpet/whistle *blew* loudly. ▪ The siren *blew*. [=*sounded*] **b** [+ *obj*] : to play or produce a sound with (a musical instrument, whistle, etc.) ▪ *blow* a trumpet ▪ *blow* a whistle ▪ *blow* a siren
4 : to damage or destroy (something) with an explosion [+ *obj*] The terrorists rigged a bomb to *blow* [=(more commonly) *blow up*] the bridge. ▪ The explosion *blew* his leg off. = The

explosion *blew* off his leg. ▪ The explosion *blew* out the window. ▪ The burglar *blew* the safe open with dynamite. ▪ The bomb *blew* the bridge to bits/smithereens. [=the bomb completely destroyed the bridge] [*no obj*] They ran away when they realized that the bridge was about to *blow*. [=(more commonly) *blow up*, *explode*] ▪ The window *blew* out in the explosion. ▪ The safe *blew* open when the burglar dynamited it. — sometimes used figuratively ▪ The election has been *blown* wide open by the revelation that one of the candidates was lying. ▪ The prosecution's case was *blown* apart by new evidence. — see also BLOW UP (below)

5 : to cause (a tire) to suddenly lose air and become flat [+ *obj*] He drove over a nail and *blew* a tire. — often + *out* ▪ The car *blew out* a tire. [*no obj*] The car crashed because one of its tires had *blown*. — often + *out* ▪ One of the car's tires *blew out*. — see also BLOWOUT 1

6 *of an electric fuse* : to melt and stop the flow of electricity when an electric current is too strong [*no obj*] The light went off because a fuse had *blown*. [+ *obj*] What *blew* the fuse? — see also *blow a fuse* at [1]FUSE

7 [+ *obj*] : to clear (your nose) by forcing air through it quickly ▪ He ***blew his nose*** into his handkerchief.

8 [+ *obj*] *informal* : to spend or waste (a large amount of money) in a foolish way ▪ He *blew* his whole paycheck on a horse that finished last.

9 [+ *obj*] *informal* **a** : to make a mistake in doing or handling (something) ▪ The actress *blew* her lines. [=she said her lines incorrectly] **b** : to lose or miss (an opportunity) by acting in a stupid or clumsy way ▪ He *blew* an opportunity to make a lot of money in the stock market. ▪ I *blew* my chance for a big promotion. ▪ They should have won the game but they ***blew it***. ▪ "I have a job interview tomorrow." "Well, don't *blow it*." ▪ I was late for the job interview and that *blew it* for me. [=that caused me not to get the job]

10 [+ *obj*] *US, informal* : to leave (a place) very quickly ▪ Let's *blow* this joint. ▪ He packed his bags and ***blew town*** [=*left town*] without even saying goodbye.

11 *always followed by an adverb or preposition* [+ *obj*] *US, informal* : to throw (a ball) with great force and speed ▪ The pitcher *blew* a fastball by/past the batter.

12 *Brit, informal* — used to express surprise, annoyance, etc. ▪ He washed the dishes? Well ***blow me down***! ▪ ***Blow it***! I forgot to buy milk.

blow a gasket see GASKET

blow away [*phrasal verb*] ***blow (someone) away*** *or* ***blow away (someone)*** *informal* **1** : to kill (someone) by shooting ▪ a gangster who got *blown away* by a hit man **2** : to impress (someone) in a very strong and favorable way ▪ I was really *blown away* by her latest movie. **3** *US* : to defeat (someone) very badly ▪ They *blew* their rivals *away* in the first game 34–7.

blow hot and cold : to change repeatedly from liking or favoring something to not liking or favoring it ▪ Local residents have been *blowing hot and cold* on the question of whether to build a new school.

blow in [*phrasal verb*] *informal* : to arrive in a sudden or unexpected way ▪ He just *blew in*, asking for a place to stay.

blow into [*phrasal verb*] ***blow into (a place)*** *informal* : to arrive at (a place) in a sudden or unexpected way ▪ He just *blew into* town and needs a place to stay.

blown out of proportion see PROPORTION

blow off [*phrasal verb*] *US, informal* **1** ***blow (someone) off*** *or* ***blow off (someone)*** **a** : to refuse to notice or deal with (someone) : to ignore (someone) ▪ I tried to say hello to him, but he just *blew* me *off*. **b** : to fail to meet (someone) at an expected time ▪ He was supposed to meet me for lunch but he *blew* me *off*. **2** ***blow (something) off*** *or* ***blow off (something)*** : to fail to attend or show up for (something) ▪ He *blew off* an official dinner.

blow off (some) steam see [1]STEAM

blow out [*phrasal verb*] **1** ***blow out*** *or* ***blow (something) out*** *or* ***blow out (something)*** : to go out or to cause (something, such as a candle) to go out by blowing ▪ There was a sudden gust of wind and the candles *blew out*. ▪ She *blew out* the candles on her birthday cake. ▪ The wind *blew out* the candle. **2** *of a storm* : to come to an end : STOP ▪ The storm eventually *blew out*. [=*blew over*] = The storm eventually ***blew itself out***. [=the storm eventually ended] — see also BLOWOUT

blow over [*phrasal verb*] *of a storm* : to come to an end : STOP ▪ The storm eventually *blew over*. [=*blew itself out*, *ended*] — often used figuratively ▪ The scandal *blew over* and was forgotten in a few months.

blow smoke see [1]SMOKE

blow (someone) a kiss see [2]KISS

blow someone's brains out see [1]BRAIN

blow someone's cover see [2]COVER

blow someone's mind see [1]MIND

blow the gaff see GAFF

blow the whistle see [1]WHISTLE

blow up [*phrasal verb*] **1** ***blow (something) up*** *or* ***blow up (something)*** : to fill (something) with air or gas : INFLATE ▪ *blow up* a balloon ▪ *blow up* a tire **2** ***blow up*** *or* ***blow (something) up*** *or* ***blow up (something)*** **a** : to explode or to cause (something, such as a bomb) to explode ▪ The bomb *blew up*. ▪ *blow up* a bomb **b** : to be destroyed or to destroy (something) by an explosion ▪ The bridge *blew up* (in the explosion). ▪ The soldiers *blew up* the bridge with a bomb. — sometimes used figuratively ▪ The whole situation has ***blown up in his face*** [=has gone terribly wrong] and he may well be fired! **3** : to become very angry ▪ The boss *blew up* when the shipment arrived late. **4** ***blow (something) up*** *or* ***blow up (something)*** : to make (a photograph) larger ▪ We had the photograph *blown up* for framing. : to make (something) seem larger or more important than it really is : EXAGGERATE ▪ It was just a trivial mistake that got *blown up* into something much worse. [=got greatly exaggerated] **5** *of the wind, a storm, etc.* : to begin blowing ▪ A wind *blew up* but quickly subsided. ▪ A storm *blew up* suddenly. — see also BLOWUP

blow your cool see [3]COOL

blow your own horn see [1]HORN

blow your own trumpet see [1]TRUMPET

blow your top *or US* ***blow your stack*** *informal* : to become very angry ▪ Mom really *blew her top* when she found out I'd wrecked the car.

[2]blow *noun, pl* **blows** [*count*]

1 : a strong wind ▪ If the weather reports are right, we're in for a good *blow* tonight. [=there will be a strong wind tonight; the wind will blow hard tonight]

2 : the act of blowing something (such as your nose) ▪ He gave his nose a good *blow*. [=he blew his nose]

– compare [3]BLOW

[3]blow *noun, pl* **blows** [*count*]

1 : a hard hit using a part of the body or an object ▪ He delivered a mighty *blow* with a club. ▪ a *blow* with a hammer = a hammer *blow* ▪ I caught/got him with a heavy *blow* in the third round. = I landed a heavy *blow* on him in the third round. ▪ The two boxers ***exchanged blows***. [=hit each other] ▪ The boxer ***rained blows*** on his opponent's head. [=the boxer hit his opponent's head many times] ▪ The falling tile struck him with a ***glancing blow*** on the head. [=hit his head with less than full force and fell off to one side] — see also BODY BLOW, LOW BLOW

2 a : something that is done to fight for or against something ▪ They ***struck a blow*** for freedom and against tyranny. [=they did something that helped freedom and opposed tyranny] **b** : a sudden event that causes trouble, damage, sorrow, etc. ▪ Hopes of peace received a mortal *blow* when negotiations were blocked. ▪ The injury to their best player was a serious *blow* to the team's chances. [=the injury did serious harm to the team's chances] ▪ The death of his wife was a terrible/shattering *blow* from which he never really recovered. ▪ She was disappointed not to get the job, but the promise of another job ***cushioned/softened the blow***. [=the promise of another job made her disappointment less painful or severe]

come to blows : to begin fighting : to begin hitting each other ▪ They almost *came to blows* during their argument.

deal a blow see [1]DEAL

– compare [2]BLOW

blow–by–blow /ˈbloʊbaɪˈbloʊ/ *adj, always used before a noun* : describing each thing that happens in a series ▪ He gave us a *blow–by–blow* account/description of the meeting.

blow–dried /ˈbloʊˌdraɪd/ *adj* : having blow-dried hair — sometimes used in a disapproving way in U.S. English to describe someone (such as a television personality) who has a neat appearance but is not very intelligent or interesting ▪ a *blow-dried* newscaster

blow–dry•er /ˈbloʊˌdraɪəɹ/ *noun, pl* **-dry•ers** [*count*] : a handheld device that blows air and is used for drying hair ▪ She dried her hair with a *blow-dryer*. — see picture at GROOMING

– **blow–dry** /ˈbloʊˌdraɪ/ *verb* **-dries**; **-dried**; **-dry•ing** [+ *obj*] She washed and *blow-dried* her hair. [*no obj*] Always brush or comb while you *blow-dry*. – **blow–dry** *noun, pl*

-dries [*count*] ▪ She gave her hair a quick *blow-dry*.

blow•er /ˈblowɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : a device that blows air ▪ a leaf *blower* [=a device that is used for clearing away leaves from the ground by producing a strong current of air] — see also SNOWBLOWER, WHISTLE-BLOWER

on the blower *Brit, informal + old-fashioned* : on the telephone ▪ When I finally got him *on the blower* [=(*US*) *on the horn*] he said he couldn't come.

blow•gun /ˈbloʊˌgʌn/ *noun, pl* **-guns** [*count*] : a long narrow tube that shoots out an arrow or dart when someone breathes into it quickly and forcefully

blow•hard /ˈbloʊˌhɑɚd/ *noun, pl* **-hards** [*count*] *US, informal + disapproving* : a person who talks too much and who has strong opinions that other people dislike ▪ She's nice but her husband's a real *blowhard*. [=*windbag*]

blow•hole /ˈbloʊˌhoʊl/ *noun, pl* **-holes** [*count*]

1 : a hole that is on the top of a whale or related animal's head and is used by the animal for breathing

2 : a hole in the ice to which seals and other animals that are living in the water under the ice come to breathe

blow job *noun, pl* ~ **jobs** [*count*] *informal + offensive* : the act of stimulating a man's penis with the mouth for sexual pleasure

blow•lamp /ˈbloʊˌlæmp/ *noun, pl* **-lamps** [*count*] *Brit* : BLOWTORCH

blown *past participle of* ¹BLOW

blow•out /ˈbloʊˌaʊt/ *noun, pl* **-outs** [*count*]

1 : a sudden loss of air caused by a hole or cut in a tire ▪ The car crashed after one of its tires had a *blowout*. — see also ¹BLOW 5

2 *informal* : a large and informal social gathering : a big party ▪ We had a big *blowout* to celebrate his promotion.

3 *US, informal* : an easy victory : a game or contest in which the winner defeats the loser by a large amount ▪ The game was expected to be close but it turned out to be a *blowout*. ▪ a *blowout* game

– see also *blow out* at ¹BLOW

blow•sy *also* **blow•zy** /ˈblaʊzi/ *adj* **blow•si•er; -est** [*also more* ~; *most* ~] *of a woman* : not neat or clean in her clothing or appearance and usually fat ▪ a *blowsy* old woman

blow•torch /ˈbloʊˌtoɚtʃ/ *noun, pl* **-torch•es** [*count*] *US* : a device that produces a very hot, narrow flame for doing work (such as melting metal to join pipes together) — called also (*Brit*) *blowlamp*

blow•up /ˈbloʊˌʌp/ *noun, pl* **-ups** [*count*]

1 : a photograph that has been made larger ▪ The *blowup* of the photograph was easy to frame.

2 a : an angry argument ▪ The two of them had a big *blowup* about something trivial. **b** : an occurrence in which someone becomes very angry : an angry outburst ▪ The coach's latest *blowup* occurred when one of his players arrived late. — see also *blow up* at ¹BLOW

blowy /ˈblowi/ *adj* **blow•i•er; -est** : BREEZY, WINDY ▪ a *blowy* March day

BLT /ˌbiːˌɛlˈtiː/ *noun, pl* **BLTs** [*count*] *US* : a bacon, lettuce, and tomato sandwich

¹blub•ber /ˈblʌbɚ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the fat on whales and some other animals that live in the water

²blubber *verb* **-bers; -bered; -ber•ing** [*no obj*] : to cry in a noisy and annoying way ▪ Oh, stop *blubbering*, you big baby!

¹blud•geon /ˈblʌʤən/ *verb* **-geons; -geoned; -geon•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to hit (someone or something) very hard ▪ The victim was *bludgeoned* to death with a hammer.

2 : to use arguments or threats to force (someone) to do something ▪ He was *bludgeoned* [=*bullied*] into accepting the deal.

²bludgeon *noun, pl* **-geons** [*count*]

1 : a heavy stick that usually has one thick end and is used as a weapon

2 : something that is used to attack or bully someone ▪ the *bludgeon* of satire

¹blue /ˈbluː/ *adj* **blu•er; blu•est**

1 : having the color of the clear sky ▪ a *blue* house/car/shirt/pen ▪ his bright *blue* eyes ▪ the deep *blue* ocean — see also BABY BLUE, BLACK-AND-BLUE, COBALT BLUE, NAVY BLUE, ROYAL BLUE, SKY BLUE, TRUE-BLUE

2 : sad or unhappy ▪ Are you feeling *blue*? — see also BLUES

blue in the face ✧ If you do something until you are *blue in the face*, you do it for a very long time without having any success or making any difference. ▪ I talked to him until I was *blue in the face*, but he wouldn't listen to me.

blue with cold *or* ***blue from the cold*** *chiefly Brit, of a person or body part* : blue from being exposed to cold for too long ▪ Her hands and feet are *blue with cold*. ▪ He was shivering and *blue from the cold*.

go blue *Brit* : to turn blue from being cold or not breathing ▪ The baby stopped breathing and *went blue*.

talk a blue streak *US* : to talk rapidly and without stopping ▪ Sheesh! Your friend really *talks a blue streak*!

– **blue•ness** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the *blueness* of the ocean

²blue *noun, pl* **blues**

1 : the color of the clear sky [*noncount*] Her favorite color is *blue*. ▪ shades of *blue* ▪ He was dressed in *blue*. [=blue clothing] ▪ The sky was overcast, but here and there I could see a patch of *blue*. [=blue sky] [*count*] a mixture of *blues* and greens — see color picture on page C1

2 ***the blue*** *literary* : the sky or the sea ▪ They sailed off into *the blue*.

out of the blue : without warning : in a surprising or unexpected way ▪ Then, *out of the blue*, he sold his house and left the country.

blue baby *noun, pl* ~ **-bies** [*count*] : a baby that has bluish skin usually because its heart is not working correctly

blue•bell /ˈbluːˌbɛl/ *noun, pl* **-bells** [*count*] : a plant with blue flowers that are shaped like bells

blue•ber•ry /ˈbluːˌberi/ *noun, pl* **-ries** [*count*] : a small round fruit with blue, purple, or blackish skin ▪ We picked *blueberries*. ▪ a pie made with *blueberries* — often used before another noun ▪ *blueberry* muffins/pie ▪ a *blueberry* bush ▪ We went *blueberry* picking. — see color picture on page C5

blue•bird /ˈbluːˌbɚd/ *noun, pl* **-birds** [*count*] : a small North American bird that is mostly blue with a blue, brown, or orange belly — see color picture on page C9

blue blood *noun, pl* ~ **bloods**

1 [*noncount*] : membership in a royal or socially important family ▪ a woman of *blue blood*

2 [*count*] : a member of a royal or socially important family ▪ This is where the city's *blue bloods* like to gather.

– **blue–blood•ed** /ˈbluːˈblʌdəd/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ a *blue-blooded* family ▪ *blue-blooded* sports like golf and polo

blue book *noun, pl* ~ **books**

1 [*singular*] : a report that is published by the government ▪ The information is listed in the *blue book*.

2 [*count*] *US* : a thin booklet with a blue cover and empty pages that is often used for writing the answers to test questions in college

3 [*singular*] *US* : a book that lists the current value of items (such as used cars)

blue cheese *noun, pl* ~ **cheeses** [*count, noncount*] : a kind of cheese that is white with lines of blue mold and that has a strong flavor

blue–chip *adj, always used before a noun*

1 : valuable and likely to make a good profit : not likely to cause investors to lose money ▪ *blue-chip* companies/stocks

2 *chiefly US* : very good : EXCELLENT ▪ a *blue-chip* [=*first-class, first-rate*] artist/athlete/wine

blue–col•lar /ˈbluːˈkɑːlɚ/ *adj* : requiring physical work ▪ *blue-collar* jobs [=jobs making things in a factory, fixing machines, building things, etc.] : relating to or having jobs that require physical work ▪ *blue-collar* [=*working-class*] workers/families — compare PINK-COLLAR, WHITE-COLLAR

blue•fish /ˈbluːˌfɪʃ/ *noun, pl* **bluefish** [*count*] : a type of fish that lives in the ocean and is caught by people for food and for sport — see color picture on page C8

blue•grass /ˈbluːˌgræs, *Brit* ˈbluːˌgrɑːs/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a type of traditional American music that is played on stringed instruments (such as banjos and fiddles)

blue jay *noun, pl* ~ **jays** [*count*] : a common American bird that is mostly blue — see color picture on page C9

blue jeans *noun* [*plural*] : pants made of a strong blue cloth (called denim) ▪ He was wearing (a pair of) *blue jeans*. — see color picture on page C14

blue law *noun, pl* ~ **laws** [*count*] *US* : an old law that forbids people from doing certain things (such as working or selling alcohol) on Sundays

blue moon *noun*

once in a blue moon : very rarely ▪ It happens *once in a blue moon*.

blue•print /ˈbluːˌprɪnt/ *noun, pl* **-prints** [*count*]

1 : a photographic print that shows how something (such as a building) will be made ✧ Blueprints are often sheets of

blue paper with white lines on them. ▪ architectural *blueprints* — often used figuratively ▪ Each cell contains the organism's genetic *blueprint*.

2 : a detailed plan of how to do something ▪ a ***blueprint for*** success ▪ a *blueprint for* reforming the public school system

blue ribbon *noun, pl* ~ **-bons** [*count*] : a decorative piece of blue cloth that is given to the winner in a contest or competition ▪ Our pumpkin won the *blue ribbon* at the county fair this year. — called also (*Brit*) *blue rib•and* /ˈrɪbənd/

blue–ribbon *adj, always used before a noun* : made up of people who have special knowledge, abilities, etc. ▪ a *blue-ribbon* committee/panel

blues /ˈbluːz/ *noun*

1 ***the blues*** : a feeling of sadness or depression ▪ I've got (a case of) *the blues*. [=I have been feeling sad/depressed]

2 [*noncount*] : a style of music that was created by African-Americans in the southern U.S. and that often expresses feelings of sadness ▪ a band that plays *blues* and jazz — often used with *the* ▪ She sings *the blues*. — often used before another noun ▪ a *blues* singer — sometimes used figuratively ▪ He's been ***singing the blues*** [=feeling sad and discouraged] since he lost his job. — see also RHYTHM AND BLUES

– **blue•sy** /ˈbluːzi/ *adj* **blues•i•er**; **-est** ▪ *bluesy* music ▪ a band with a *bluesy* sound

blue•stock•ing /ˈbluːˌstɑːkɪŋ/ *noun, pl* **-ings** [*count*] *old-fashioned + often disapproving* : an educated woman who is interested in books and ideas

blue whale *noun, pl* ~ **whales** [*count*] : a very large bluish-gray whale ✧ The blue whale is the largest living animal.

[1]bluff /ˈblʌf/ *verb* **bluffs**; **bluffed**; **bluff•ing**

1 : to pretend that you will do something or that you know or have something in order to trick someone into doing what you want [*no obj*] Don't listen to his threats—he's just *bluffing*. [=he will not really do what he threatens to do] ▪ She says someone else has made her a higher offer, but I think she's *bluffing*. ▪ He's a terrible card player—you can always tell when he's *bluffing*. [=when he's pretending that he has better cards than he actually has] [+ *obj*] Don't listen to his threats—he's just *bluffing* you. ▪ I managed to ***bluff my way*** into the show without a ticket. [=I got into the show by bluffing] ▪ I *bluffed my way* through the interview.

2 [+ *obj*] *US* : to pretend to do or make (something) ▪ The catcher *bluffed* [=*faked, feigned*] a throw to first base.

[2]bluff *noun, pl* **bluffs** [*count*] : a false threat or claim that is meant to get someone to do something ▪ She says someone else has made her a higher offer, but I think it's just a *bluff*.

call your bluff ✧ If you have made a bluff or a threat and people *call your bluff*, they tell you to do the thing you have threatened to do because they do not believe that you will really do it. ▪ When she threatened to quit her job, her boss *called her bluff* and told her she could leave if she wanted to.

– compare [3]BLUFF

[3]bluff *noun, pl* **bluffs** [*count*] : a high, steep area of land : CLIFF ▪ They stood on the *bluffs* overlooking the Pacific Ocean. — compare [2]BLUFF

[4]bluff *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : having a very open, honest, and direct way of talking that is friendly but not always polite ▪ a *bluff*, easygoing fellow

blu•ish /ˈbluːwɪʃ/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : somewhat blue ▪ a *bluish* green [=a shade of green that is somewhat blue]

[1]blun•der /ˈblʌndɚ/ *verb* **-ders**; **-dered**; **-der•ing** [*no obj*]

1 : to move in an awkward or confused way ▪ We *blundered* along through the woods until we finally found the trail. ▪ Another skier *blundered* into his path. — often used figuratively ▪ a nation that is *blundering* into war

2 : to make a stupid or careless mistake ▪ The government *blundered* by not acting sooner.

– **blundering** *adj* ▪ a bunch of *blundering* idiots

[2]blunder *noun, pl* **-ders** [*count*] : a bad mistake made because of stupidity or carelessness ▪ The accident was the result of a series of *blunders*. ▪ a political/tactical *blunder*

blun•der•buss /ˈblʌndɚˌbʌs/ *noun, pl* **-bus•ses** [*count*] : an old-fashioned kind of gun with a wide opening at the end

[1]blunt /ˈblʌnt/ *adj* **blunt•er**; **-est** [*also more* ~; *most* ~]

1 : having a thick edge or point : not sharp ▪ scissors with *blunt* [=*rounded*] ends ▪ He was hit over the head with a ***blunt instrument*** [=an object without sharp edges or points] ✧ ***Blunt trauma*** is a serious injury caused by being hit by something that does not have sharp edges. ▪ She suffered *blunt trauma* to the head.

2 : saying or expressing something in a very direct way that may upset some people ▪ *blunt* language ▪ a *blunt* statement ▪ To be perfectly *blunt*, I find her annoying. ▪ He was *blunt* about needing more privacy.

– **blunt•ly** *adv* ▪ She *bluntly* refused their offer. ▪ To put it *bluntly*, I think he's out of his mind. – **blunt•ness** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ He replied with characteristic *bluntness*.

[2]blunt *verb* **blunts**; **blunt•ed**; **blunt•ing** [+ *obj*] : to make (something) less sharp ▪ a weapon *blunted* by use — often used figuratively ▪ The stress and fatigue had *blunted* [=*weakened*] his reflexes. ▪ They tried to *blunt* [=*soften*] their criticism by praising her energy and enthusiasm.

[1]blur /ˈblɚ/ *noun, pl* **blurs**

1 [*count*] : something that you cannot see clearly — usually singular ▪ He passed by in a *blur* of motion. ▪ As the train sped on, everything outside the window was a *blur*. ▪ I looked out at the *blur* of faces in the audience. ▪ The letters are just a *blur* without my glasses.

2 [*singular*] : something that is difficult to remember ▪ The whole weekend is just a *blur* to me. [=I don't remember the events of the weekend very clearly]

– **blur•ry** /ˈblɚi/ *adj* **blur•ri•er**; **-est** [*or more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ a *blurry* image ▪ She's suffering from *blurry* vision. ▪ The letters are *blurry* [=*blurred*] without my glasses.

[2]blur *verb* **blurs**; **blurred**; **blur•ring**

1 [+ *obj*] : to make (something) unclear or difficult to see or remember ▪ a technique that *blurs* the edges of the image [=makes the edges of the image less sharp] ▪ The tears in my eyes *blurred* the words on the page. ▪ His novel is based on historical occurrences but it ***blurs the line/distinction between*** fact and fiction.

2 [*no obj*] : to become unclear or difficult to see or remember ▪ I was so tired that my vision/eyes started to *blur*. [=I was not able to see clearly] ▪ The two events have *blurred* together in my mind.

– **blurred** *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ The writing is *blurred* [=*blurry*] but I think I can read it. ▪ The patient's symptoms include *blurred* vision. ▪ a *blurred* memory

blurb /ˈblɚb/ *noun, pl* **blurbs** [*count*] : a short description that praises something (such as a book) so that people will want to buy it ▪ a *blurb* on a book jacket

blurt /ˈblɚt/ *verb* **blurts**; **blurt•ed**; **blurt•ing** [+ *obj*] : to say (something) suddenly and without thinking about how people will react ▪ "Gosh, you look awful!" she *blurted*. — usually + *out* ▪ He accidentally *blurted out* an obscenity. ▪ She *blurted out* the answer.

[1]blush /ˈblʌʃ/ *verb* **blush•es**; **blushed**; **blush•ing** [*no obj*]

1 : to become red in your face because you are ashamed, embarrassed, confused, etc. ▪ He *blushed* at the compliment. ▪ The unexpected attention made her *blush* (with embarrassment).

2 : to be embarrassed ▪ I *blush* to admit it, but you've caught me in an error.

[2]blush *noun, pl* **blushes**

1 [*count*] : the red color that spreads over your face when you are ashamed, embarrassed, confused, etc. ▪ The comment brought a *blush* to her cheeks.

2 [*count*] : a slight red or pink color ▪ The fruit is yellow, with a *blush* of pink.

3 [*noncount*] *US* : a cream or powder that some people put on their cheeks to make their cheeks pink or reddish ▪ She put on a little lipstick and *blush*. — called also (*chiefly Brit*) *blush•er* /ˈblʌʃɚ/

at first blush see [1]FIRST

spare someone's blushes see [2]SPARE

blush wine *noun, pl* ~ **wines** [*count, noncount*] : wine that has a pink color

[1]blus•ter /ˈblʌstɚ/ *verb* **-ters**; **-tered**; **-ter•ing**

1 : to speak in a loud and aggressive or threatening way [*no obj*] He brags and *blusters*, but he never really does what he says he'll do. [+ *obj*] "I don't want to hear it!" he *blustered*.

2 [*no obj*] *of wind* : to blow loudly and violently ▪ The wind *blustered* through the valley.

– **blustering** *adj* ▪ The storm brought *blustering* [=*blustery*] winds. ▪ a *blustering* bully

[2]bluster *noun* [*noncount*] : words that are loud and aggressive ▪ We were all tired of his macho *bluster*.

blus•tery /ˈblʌstəri/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : blowing loudly and violently ▪ *blustery* winds

blvd. *abbr* boulevard ▪ The letter was addressed to him at 1066 Sunset *Blvd*.

B movie *noun, pl* ~ **-ies** [*count*] : a movie that costs little

money to make and that is usually not considered to be very good

BO *abbr* body odor ▪ She refused to wear deodorant and had horrible *BO*. [=her body smelled very unpleasant]

boa /ˈbowə/ *noun, pl* **boas** [*count*]
1 : BOA CONSTRICTOR
2 : a long scarf that is made of fur, feathers, or cloth ▪ a pink feather *boa*

boa constrictor *noun, pl* ~ **-tors** [*count*] : a large brown snake that crushes the animals it eats by squeezing them with its body and that lives in the tropical regions of Central and South America

boar /ˈboɚ/ *noun, pl* **boars** [*count*]
1 : a male pig
2 : a wild pig — called also *wild boar*

[1]board /ˈboɚd/ *noun, pl* **boards**
1 [*count*] : a long, thin, flat piece of wood ▪ They nailed some *boards* over the broken window. ▪ Cut the *board* lengthwise.
2 [*count*] **a :** a flat piece of material (such as wood or cardboard) that is used for a special purpose ▪ They covered the *board* in fabric and pinned some photographs to it. ▪ the *board* that is used to play games like chess and checkers **b :** BULLETIN BOARD 1 ▪ I saw a notice on the *board* calling for volunteers. — see also MESSAGE BOARD **c :** a large, smooth surface for writing on ▪ Write the answers on the *board*. — see also BLACKBOARD, WHITEBOARD
3 [*count*] **a :** a group of people who manage or direct a company or organization ▪ She sits on the bank's *board* of directors. = She's a *board* member at the bank. **b :** a group of people who have been chosen to learn information about something, to give advice, etc. ▪ a member of the advisory *board* = a *board* member ▪ She is on the town's planning/zoning *board*. ▪ an investigative *board* [=(more commonly) *panel*] ▪ The parole *board* has decided that the prisoner is not yet ready for release. — see also BOARDROOM, SCHOOL BOARD
4 [*noncount*] : daily meals that you pay for when you are paying to stay at a hotel, school, etc. ▪ He's looking for a place that provides *board* and lodging in the city. ▪ (*Brit*) A week at the hotel with ***half board*** [=some meals] is of course less expensive than a week with ***full board***. [=all meals] — see also ROOM AND BOARD
5 [*count*] : CIRCUIT BOARD
6 *boards* [*plural*] *US* : special tests that you take when you want to be accepted as a student at a college or medical school ▪ Did you pass the *boards*?
7 *the boards* *US* : the low wooden wall that surrounds the playing surface in ice hockey ▪ He crashed into *the boards*.
across the board : in a way that includes or affects everyone or everything ▪ We've been forced to cut spending *across the board*. — see also ACROSS-THE-BOARD
go by the board *or US* ***go by the boards*** : to no longer be used or considered : to be discarded, rejected, or abandoned ▪ Many of his original theories have *gone by the board* in recent years as new evidence has accumulated.
on board **1 :** in or on a train, boat, etc. : ABOARD ▪ She got *on board* the train. ▪ The ship's passengers are all *on board*. ▪ Is all the equipment *on board* (the boat/train/bus/plane)?
2 : included among the group of people who support a particular goal, project, etc. ▪ They needed to get more senators *on board* for the bill to pass.
sweep the board see [1]SWEEP
take (something) on board *Brit* : to decide to accept or deal with (something, such as a suggestion or idea) ▪ You will be pleased to note that we have *taken* your suggestions *on board* in formulating the present policy.
tread the boards see [1]TREAD

[2]board *verb* **boards; board•ed; board•ing**
1 a : to get into or onto (an airplane, a bus, a train, etc.) [+ *obj*] You must have a ticket in order to *board* the train. ▪ The pirates tried to *board* the ship, but we fought them off. [*no obj*] We're supposed to *board* at 10:15. ▪ Passengers may now *board*. **b :** to put or allow (someone) into or onto an airplane, a bus, a train, etc. [+ *obj*] We're now *boarding* all passengers. [*no obj*] The flight is about to begin *boarding*. ▪ Passengers should remain in the *boarding* area.
2 [+ *obj*] : to cover or close (something) with pieces of wood ▪ The caretaker *boarded* the window. — usually + *up* ▪ The caretaker *boarded up* the window. ▪ We decided to *board up* [=put boards over the windows and doors of] the old shed.
3 a [+ *obj*] : to provide (someone) with daily meals and a place to live in exchange for money ▪ They *board* guests during the summer season. **b** [*no obj*] : to pay for daily meals and a place to live ▪ Many students *board* at the college. — see also BOARDINGHOUSE, BOARDING SCHOOL

board•er /ˈboɚdɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]
1 : a person who pays to live and have daily meals at another person's house or at a school ▪ She decided to take in *boarders*. ▪ Half of the students are *boarders*.
2 : a person who uses a snowboard ▪ an amateur *boarder* [=*snowboarder*]

board game *noun, pl* ~ **games** [*count*] : a game (such as chess) that is played by moving pieces on a special board

board•ing•house /ˈboɚdɪŋˌhaʊs/ *noun, pl* **-hous•es** [*count*] : a house where people pay to live and have daily meals

boarding pass *noun, pl* ~ **passes** [*count*] *US* : a special piece of paper that you must have in order to be allowed to get onto an airplane ▪ Please present your *boarding pass* to the flight attendant. — called also (*Brit*) *boarding card*

boarding school *noun, pl* ~ **schools** : a school where students can live during the school term [*count*] He attended a prestigious *boarding school* in Massachusetts. [*noncount*] She was sent to *boarding school* when she was nine.

board•room /ˈboɚdˌruːm/ *noun, pl* **-rooms** [*count*] : a room where the group of people who manage or direct a company or organization have meetings ▪ The directors are meeting in the *boardroom*. — often used before another noun ▪ There was lots of *boardroom* intrigue surrounding the appointment of a new CEO.

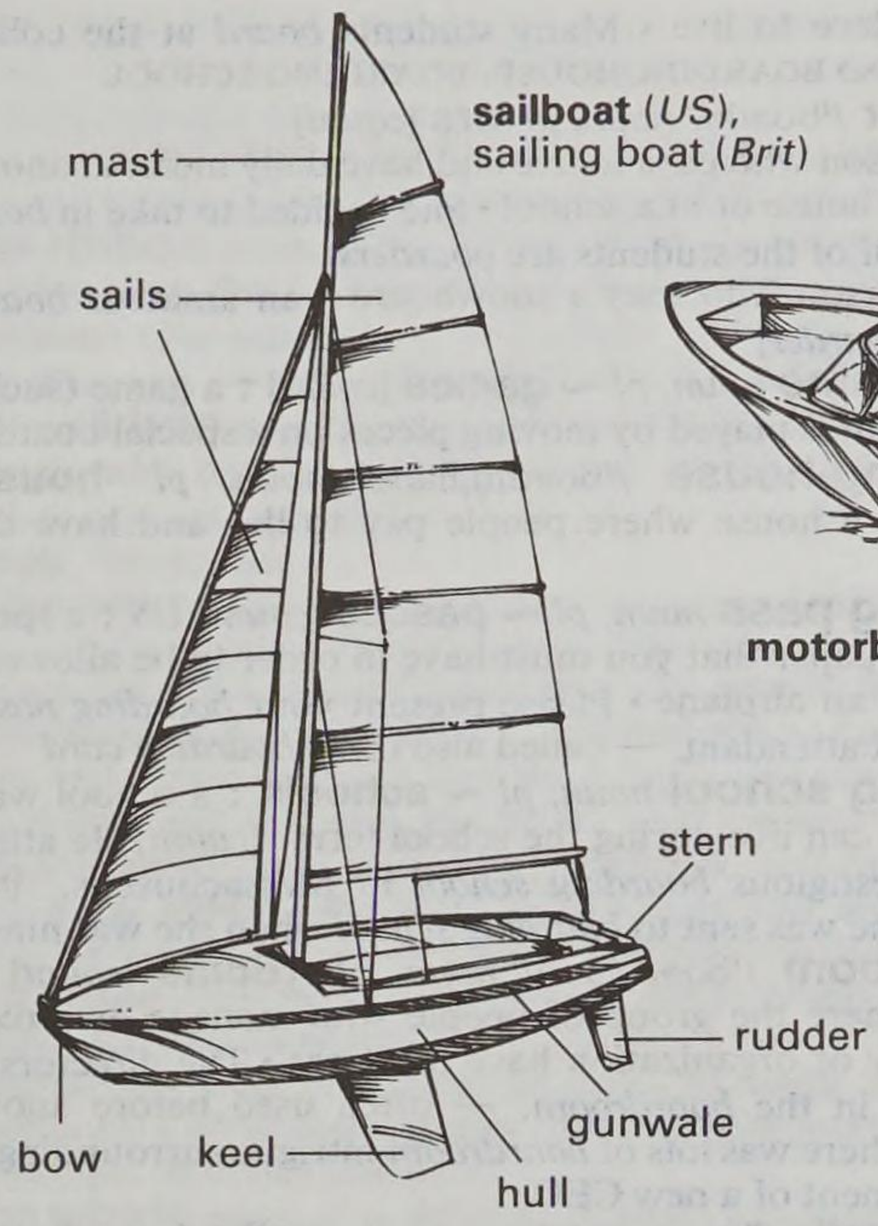
board•walk /ˈboɚdˌwɑːk/ *noun, pl* **-walks** [*count*] *chiefly US* : a wooden path along a beach ✧ A boardwalk can be on the ground or raised above the ground several feet.

[1]boast /ˈboʊst/ *verb* **boasts; boast•ed; boast•ing**
1 : to express too much pride in yourself or in something you have, have done, or are connected to in some way [*no obj*] They *boasted* to their friends about their son's salary. ▪ She *boasted* of having won five games in a row. ▪ That score is nothing to *boast* about. [=you shouldn't be proud of that score; that score is not very good] [+ *obj*] He liked to *boast* that he was the richest man in town. ▪ "I've sold more paintings than you ever will," the artist *boasted*.
2 [+ *obj*] : to have (something that is impressive) ▪ The museum *boasts* some of the rarest gems in the world. ▪ The school *boasts* a number of Nobel laureates among its graduates.

[2]boast *noun, pl* **boasts** [*count*]
1 : a statement in which you express too much pride in yourself or in something you have, have done, or are connected to in some way ▪ When he says he's the richest man in town, he's not just making an idle/empty *boast*. ▪ We were offended by his *boast* that he would easily beat us.
2 : a reason to be proud : something impressive that someone or something has or has done ▪ The museum's proudest *boast* is its collection of rare gems.
– boast•ful /ˈboʊstfəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ a *boastful* person/remark **– boast•ful•ly** /ˈboʊstfəli/ *adv* **– boast•ful•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

[1]boat /ˈboʊt/ *noun, pl* **boats** [*count*]
1 a : a small vehicle that is used for traveling on water ▪ a fishing *boat* ▪ He tied the *boat* to the dock. **b :** a vehicle of any size that is used for traveling on water ▪ Cruise ships and other *boats* filled the harbor. ▪ traveling ***by boat*** across the ocean — see picture on next page; compare SHIP
2 : a long and narrow container that is used for serving a sauce with a meal ▪ a gravy/sauce *boat*
fresh/just off the boat *informal* : recently arrived in a country ▪ My parents met in New York when my father was *fresh off the boat* from Italy.
in the same boat *informal* : in the same unpleasant or difficult situation : affected by the same problem ▪ We're all *in the same boat*.
miss the boat *informal* : to fail to use an opportunity ▪ If I don't act now I could *miss the boat* on this investment.
push the boat out *Brit, informal* : to spend a lot of money : to be extravagant ▪ We're going to *push the boat out* and throw a big party to celebrate his recovery.
rock the boat *informal* : to cause trouble by changing or trying to change a situation that other people do not want to change ▪ Don't *rock the boat*. ▪ The system isn't perfect, but it's been this way for a long time and nobody wants to *rock the boat*.
– boat•ful /ˈboʊtfəl/ *noun, pl* **-fuls** [*count*] ▪ a *boatful* [=(more commonly) *boatload*] of passengers

[2]boat *verb* **boats; boat•ed; boat•ing** [*no obj*] : to travel in a boat ▪ We *boated* over to the island.



boat•er /ˈboʊtɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]
1 : a person who travels in a boat • a favorite spot for pleasure *boaters*
2 : a stiff straw hat that has a brim and a flat top

boat•house /ˈboʊtˌhaʊs/ *noun, pl* **-hous•es** [*count*] : a small building that is used for storing boats near a river or lake

boating *noun* [*noncount*] : the activity of going or traveling in a boat for pleasure • She enjoys hiking, *boating*, and fishing. • We ***went boating*** on the lake. — often used before another noun • They own a store that sells *boating* equipment.

boat•load /ˈboʊtˌloʊd/ *noun, pl* **-loads** [*count*] : an amount or number that will fill a boat • a *boatload* of passengers — often used figuratively to refer to a very large number or amount • They made *boatloads* of money. = They made a *boatload* of money. • We bought souvenirs ***by the boatload***. [=in large numbers; we bought many souvenirs]

boat•man /ˈboʊtmən/ *noun, pl* **-men** /-mən/ [*count*] : a person (especially a man) who works on, rents, or operates boats; *especially* : a person who you pay to take you somewhere in a boat

boat people *noun* [*plural*] : people who leave their country in boats in order to get away from a dangerous situation

boat•swain *or* **bo•sun** /ˈboʊsn̩/ *noun, pl* **-swains** *or* **-suns** [*count*] : an officer on a ship whose job is to take care of the main body of the ship and all the ship's equipment

boat•yard /ˈboʊtˌjɑɚd/ *noun, pl* **-yards** [*count*] : a place where boats are built, repaired, stored, rented, or sold

[1]bob /ˈbɑːb/ *verb* **bobs**; **bobbed**; **bob•bing** : to move up and down quickly or repeatedly [*no obj*] A cork was *bobbing* in the water. • The bird's head *bobbed* up and down as it searched for food. [+ *obj*] The bird *bobbed* its head up and down as it searched for food.
bob for apples : to play a children's game in which you try to grab floating or hanging apples with your teeth
bob up [*phrasal verb*] *informal* : to appear suddenly or unexpectedly • The question *bobbed up* [=(more commonly) *popped up*] again.
– compare [4]BOB

[2]bob *noun, pl* **bobs** [*count*] : a quick up-and-down motion • He greeted us with a *bob* of his head. — compare [3]BOB, [5]BOB

[3]bob *noun, pl* **bobs** [*count*]
1 : a woman's or child's haircut in which the hair is all one length and usually at about the level of the person's chin • She had her hair cut in a *bob*.
2 : PLUMB BOB 1
3 : [2]FLOAT 1a
bits and bobs see [1]BIT
– compare [2]BOB, [5]BOB

[4]bob *verb* **bobs**; **bobbed**; **bob•bing** [+ *obj*]
1 : to cut (something, such as an animal's tail) shorter • They *bobbed* [=*cropped*] the horse's tail for the show.
2 : to cut (a person's hair) so that it is all one length and usually at about the level of the person's chin • I hadn't seen her since she *bobbed* her hair.
– compare [1]BOB

[5]bob *noun, pl* **bob** [*count*] *Brit, informal* : SHILLING • It costs five *bob*. • I'm always looking for ways to save ***a few bob***. [=some money] — compare [2]BOB, [3]BOB

Bob /ˈbɑːb/ *noun*
and Bob's your uncle *Brit, informal* — used to say that something is easy to do or use • Just complete the form, pay the fee, *and Bob's your uncle*! [=and there you go]

bob•bin /ˈbɑːbən/ *noun, pl* **-bins** [*count*] : a round object with flat ends and a tube in its center around which thread or yarn is wound

[1]bob•ble /ˈbɑːbəl/ *verb* **bob•bles**; **bob•bled**; **bob•bling**
1 [*no obj*] : to move up and down quickly or repeatedly • a doll with a head that *bobbles* [=*bobs*] up and down
2 [+ *obj*] *US* : to handle (something, such as a ball) in a clumsy or awkward way : to fail to catch (something) : FUMBLE • The catcher *bobbled* the ball.

[2]bobble *noun, pl* **bobbles** [*count*]
1 *US* : a mistake that occurs when a player fails to catch or handle the ball properly in baseball, football, etc. • a *bobble* that cost them the game — sometimes used figuratively • The show went well with only a minor *bobble*. [=*mistake*]
2 *chiefly Brit* : a small ball of fabric that is used for decora-

tion ▪ The curtains have a series of *bobbles* along the edge. ▪ a woolly hat with a *bobble* [=(*US*) *pom-pom*] on top

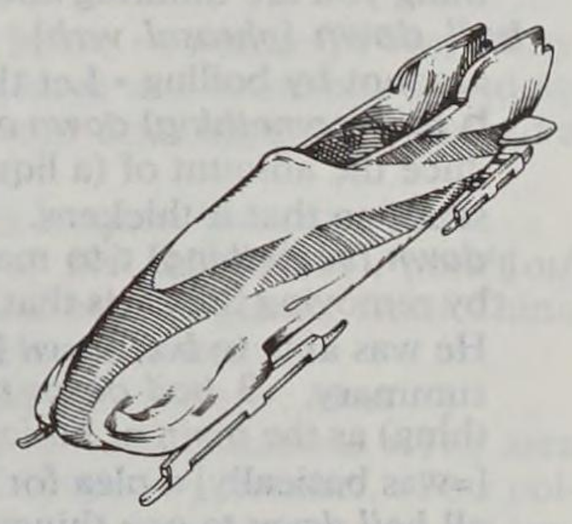
bob•by /ˈbɑːbi/ *noun, pl* **bob•bies** [*count*] *Brit, old-fashioned + informal* : POLICE OFFICER ▪ a *bobby* on his beat

bobby pin *noun, pl* ~ **pins** [*count*] *US* : a thin piece of metal that is bent so that the ends are close together and that is used for holding hair in place — called also (*Brit*) *hairgrip*; see picture at GROOMING

bobby socks *or* **bobby sox** *noun* [*plural*] *US* : girls' socks that cover the foot, ankle, and a small part of the lower leg

bob•cat /ˈbɑːbˌkæt/ *noun, pl* **-cats** [*count*] : a kind of large wild cat that has a short tail and that lives in North America

bob•sled /ˈbɑːbˌslɛd/ *noun, pl* **-sleds** [*count*] *US* : a small vehicle for two or four people that slides over snow and ice and is used for racing ▪ He drove a *bobsled* in the winter Olympics. — often used before another noun ▪ the *bobsled* competition ▪ an Olympic *bobsled* team — called also (*Brit*) *bobsleigh*



bobsled

– bob•sled•der /ˈbɑːbˌslɛdɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] ▪ an Olympic *bobsledder* **– bob•sled•ding** /ˈbɑːbˌslɛdɪŋ/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ He competed in *bobsledding* at the winter Olympics.

bob•sleigh /ˈbɑːbˌsleɪ/ *noun, pl* **-sleighs** [*count*] *Brit* : BOBSLED

– bob•sleigh•er /ˈbɑːbˌslejɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] **– bob•sleigh•ing** /ˈbɑːbˌslejɪŋ/ *noun* [*noncount*]

boc•cie *or* **boc•ci** *or* **boc•ce** /ˈbɑːʧi/ *noun* [*noncount*] *US* : a game in which players roll heavy balls across an area of ground and try to get each ball to stop as near as possible to a smaller ball

bod /ˈbɑːd/ *noun, pl* **bods** [*count*] *informal*

1 *chiefly US* : a person's body ▪ guys with hot *bods*

2 *Brit* : a person : FELLOW ▪ Some *bod* from the office rang you. ▪ He's a bit of an odd *bod*, but I quite like him.

bo•da•cious /boʊˈdeɪʃəs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *US, informal*

1 : very good or impressive ▪ a singer with a *bodacious* voice

2 : sexually attractive ▪ *bodacious* babes

bode /boʊd/ *verb* **bodes**; **bod•ed**; **bod•ing** [+ *obj*] : to be a sign of (a future event or situation) ▪ This could *bode* disaster for all involved. ✧ If something ***bodes well*** or ***bodes ill***, it is a sign that something good or bad will happen. ▪ The news doesn't *bode well* for us. ▪ Her injury *bodes ill* for the team.

bod•ice /ˈbɑːdəs/ *noun, pl* **-ic•es** [*count*] : the upper part of a dress

[1]bodi•ly /ˈbɑːdəli/ *adj* : relating to the body : having to do with a person's or animal's body ▪ *bodily* functions/fluids ▪ The victim suffered serious *bodily* injury/harm.

[2]bodily *adv*

1 : by moving someone's body ▪ The police removed them *bodily*. [=*forcibly*] ▪ The blast lifted him *bodily* into the air.

2 : as an entire structure rather than in pieces ▪ The house will have to be moved *bodily* to the new site.

body /ˈbɑːdi/ *noun, pl* **bod•ies**

1 [*count*] **a** : a person's or animal's whole physical self ▪ the human *body* ▪ a part of the *body* ▪ Her *body* is very muscular. ▪ A bird's *body* is covered in feathers. — often used before another noun ▪ *body* weight/fat ▪ *body* parts ▪ A person's normal ***body temperature*** [=(*Brit*) *blood heat*] is 98.6 degrees Fahrenheit or 37 degrees Celsius. **b** : a dead person or animal ▪ The *body* [=*corpse*] was shipped home for burial. **c** : the main physical part of a person or animal ▪ This species has a black *body* and a white head. ▪ She held her arms tightly against her *body*.

2 [*count*] : the part of a vehicle that does not include the engine, wheels, etc. ▪ There was extensive damage to the truck's *body*. ▪ The *body* of the bus is almost entirely rusted out.

3 [*count*] : the main or most important part of something written ▪ The (main) *body* of the text/letter is devoted to a description of the author's childhood home.

4 [*count*] : an object that is separate from other objects ▪ heavenly/celestial *bodies*, such as the moon, the planets, and the stars ✧ A ***foreign body*** is an object that is inside something (such as someone's body) where it should not be. ▪ The X-ray showed a *foreign body* in his stomach. ▪ Dust particles and other *foreign bodies* can irritate the eyes.

5 [*count*] : a large area of water — used in the phrase ***body of water*** ▪ This lake is the largest *body of water* in the state.

6 [*count*] : a group of people who are involved together in the same job, activity, etc. ▪ a *body* of troops ▪ the student *body* ▪ the state's legislative *body* [=the group of people who make the state's laws]

7 [*count*] : a group of things that are related or connected in some way ▪ They've accumulated quite a *body* of evidence. ▪ a writer with an impressive *body* of work

8 [*noncount*] *of wine* : a strong and appealing flavor ▪ a wine with full *body*

9 [*noncount*] *of hair* : a thick and appealing quality ▪ hair that lacks *body*

10 [*count*] : the section of a piece of clothing that covers the main part of a person's body ▪ the *body* of a wetsuit

11 [*count*] *old-fashioned* : a human being : PERSON — usually singular ▪ What's a *body* to do? ▪ It was just some poor *body* looking for work.

body and soul : with all of your energy and enthusiasm ▪ He devoted himself *body and soul* to the cause.

keep body and soul together : to have or get enough food and money to survive ▪ She *kept body and soul together* by working two jobs.

over my dead body *informal* — used to say that you are very determined to not let something happen ▪ "We're getting married." "*Over my dead body*!" ▪ I told her she could go with them *over my dead body*.

body bag *noun, pl* ~ **bags** [*count*] : a large bag that a dead person's body is put in to be carried or moved to another place

body blow *noun, pl* ~ **blows** [*count*] : a hard hit to a person's body — usually used figuratively to describe a sudden event or occurrence that causes severe trouble, damage, sorrow, etc. ▪ The economy has taken some serious *body blows* in the past few years. ▪ The latest attack has dealt a real *body blow* to the chances for peace.

body•build•ing /ˈbɑːdiˌbɪldɪŋ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the activity of doing exercises (such as lifting weights) to make the muscles of your body larger and stronger ▪ She's been doing competitive *bodybuilding* for a few years now. — often used before another noun ▪ a *bodybuilding* competition

– body•build•er /ˈbɑːdiˌbɪldɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] ▪ professional *bodybuilders*

body clock *noun, pl* ~ **clocks** [*count*] : a system in the body that controls when you need to sleep, eat, etc. ▪ It takes a while for my *body clock* to get adjusted when I fly from New York to London. — compare BIOLOGICAL CLOCK

body count *noun, pl* ~ **counts** [*count*] : the number of people killed in a war, disaster, etc. ▪ The rising *body count* fueled opposition to the war.

body double *noun, pl* ~ **doubles** [*count*] : a person who takes an actor's place in a movie or television show for certain scenes (such as sex scenes)

body•guard /ˈbɑːdiˌgɑɚd/ *noun, pl* **-guards** : a person or group of people whose job is to protect someone [*count*] They entered the building surrounded by *bodyguards*. [*noncount*] a member of the royal *bodyguard*

body language *noun* [*noncount*] : movements or positions of the body that express a person's thoughts or feelings ▪ We could tell from his *body language* that he was nervous.

body mass index *noun, pl* ~ **indexes** [*count*] : a measurement that shows the amount of fat in your body and that is based on your weight and height ▪ A person with a *body mass index* of more than 30 is considered to be obese.

body odor *noun* [*noncount*] : an unpleasant smell from the body of a person who has been sweating or is not clean — abbr. *BO*

body politic *noun*

the body politic *formal* : all the people in a particular country considered as a single group ▪ The article examines the language politicians use to appeal to *the body politic*.

body shop *noun, pl* ~ **shops** [*count*] : a place where the bodies of vehicles are repaired ▪ My car is at the *body shop* having the dent in the door fixed.

body stocking *noun, pl* ~ **-ings** [*count*] : a piece of clothing that fits tightly and covers the body from the neck to the ankles

body•suit /ˈbɑːdiˌsuːt/ *noun, pl* **-suits** [*count*] : a piece of clothing that fits tightly and covers the body except for the legs and sometimes the arms ▪ a gymnast's *bodysuit*

Boer /boɚ/ *noun, pl* **Boers** [*count*] : a South African person

of Dutch descent : AFRIKANER

bof•fin /'bɑ:fən/ *noun, pl* **-fins** [*count*] *chiefly Brit, informal* : a research scientist ▪ Our *boffins* finally broke the enemy's code!

bof•fo /'bɑ:foʊ/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *US slang* : extremely good or successful ▪ a *boffo* idea ▪ The store's been doing *boffo* business this year. [=the store has been very successful]

[1]bog /'bɑ:g/ *noun, pl* **bogs** : an area of soft, wet land : MARSH [*count*] a kind of plant that commonly grows in *bogs* ▪ a peat *bog* [*noncount*] areas of *bog* ▪ *bog* plants/grasses — often used figuratively to refer to a situation that is complicated or difficult ▪ a *bog* of anxiety/uncertainty — compare [3]BOG

– **bog•gy** /'bɑ:gi/ *adj* **bog•gi•er**; **-est** [*or more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ *boggy* soil

[2]bog *verb* **bogs**; **bogged**; **bog•ging**

bog down [*phrasal verb*] **1** ***bog (something) down or bog down (something)*** : to cause (something) to sink in wet ground ▪ The mud *bogged down* the car. — usually used as *(be) bogged down* ▪ The car got *bogged down* in the mud. — often used figuratively ▪ It's easy to get *bogged down* in details. ▪ The extra demand can *bog down* the system. **2** : to become stuck in wet ground ▪ The car *bogged down* in the mud. — often used figuratively ▪ The story *bogs down* after the second chapter. ▪ The extra demand can cause the system to *bog down*.

[3]bog *noun, pl* **bogs** [*count*] *Brit slang* : a room with a toilet ▪ go to the *bog* [=*bathroom, toilet*] ▪ We've run out of ***bog paper***. [=*toilet paper*] — compare [1]BOG

[1]bo•gey *also* **bo•gie** *or* **bo•gy** /'boʊgi/ *noun, pl* **bo•geys** *also* **bo•gies**

1 *golf* : a score that is one more than the official standard score for a particular hole : a score of one stroke over par on a hole [*count*] He made/scored a *bogey* on the second hole. [*noncount*] He made *bogey* on the second hole. — compare BIRDIE, EAGLE; see also DOUBLE BOGEY

2 [*count*] : something that causes fear or worry ▪ The administration is trying to protect the economy from the *bogey* of recession. [=the administration is worried that a recession might occur and is trying to prevent one]

3 [*count*] *Brit, informal* : BOOGER

[2]bogey *verb* **-geys**; **-geyed**; **-gey•ing** [+ *obj*] *golf* : to score a bogey on (a hole) ▪ She birdied the first hole but *bogeyed* the second hole.

bo•gey•man /'boʊgi,mæn/ *noun, pl* **-men** /-,mɛn/ [*count*]

1 : an imaginary monster that is used to frighten children ▪ My aunt used to say to my sister and me, "The *bogeyman* will get you if you're bad."

2 : a person who is hated or feared by a group of people ▪ a politician who is the familiar *bogeyman* of conservatives

bog•gle /'bɑ:gəl/ *verb* **bog•gles**; **bog•gled**; **bog•gling** *informal*

1 [*no obj*] : to be unable to think clearly : to be amazed or overwhelmed ▪ ***The mind boggles*** at what he has accomplished. = When I think of what he has accomplished, ***my mind boggles***. [=I am amazed by what he has accomplished]

2 [+ *obj*] : to make (the mind) unable to think clearly : to amaze or overwhelm (the mind) ▪ ***It boggles the mind*** to think of what he has accomplished. = His accomplishments ***boggle my mind***. — see also MIND-BOGGLING

bog–standard *adj, Brit, informal* : having no special or interesting qualities : AVERAGE ▪ a *bog-standard* speech ▪ It's just a *bog-standard* school.

bo•gus /'boʊgəs/ *adj, informal* : not real or genuine : fake or false ▪ It was just a *bogus* claim. ▪ They conducted *bogus* experiments. ▪ The evidence was completely *bogus*.

bo•he•mi•an /boʊ'hi:mijən/ *noun, pl* **-ans** [*count*] : a person (such as an artist or writer) who does not follow society's accepted rules of behavior

– **bohemian** *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ an artist known for his *bohemian* way of life ▪ He lived in the *bohemian* part of the city. – **bo•he•mi•an•ism** /boʊ'hi:mijə,nɪzəm/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ They followed a life of *bohemianism*.

[1]boil /'bojəl/ *verb* **boils**; **boiled**; **boil•ing**

1 a [*no obj*] : to become so hot that bubbles are formed in a liquid and rise to the top ▪ Let the water *boil*. ▪ Keep the temperature low enough so the mixture will not *boil*. ▪ a pot of *boiling* water ▪ The kettle (of water) is *boiling*. = The water in the kettle is *boiling*. ▪ french fries cooked in *boiling* oil ▪ Cook the mixture until the liquid has ***boiled away***. [=until the liquid has gone; until all of the liquid has turned into steam] **b** [+ *obj*] : to heat (a liquid or a container with liquid in it) so that bubbles are formed and rise to the top ▪ *Boil* (up) some water. ▪ Can you *boil* a kettle (of water) for tea?

2 : to cook (something) in water that is boiling [+ *obj*] *Boil* the eggs/vegetables. ▪ Make sure you *boil* (up) a lot of potatoes. ▪ *boiled* eggs/potatoes [*no obj*] He put some potatoes on to *boil*. [=he put a pot with potatoes and water in it on the stove and turned the burner on] ▪ The pasta is *boiling*.

3 [*no obj*] : to feel a strong emotion (such as anger) — + *with* ▪ The crowd *boiled* [=*seethed*] *with* anger.

a watched pot never boils ✧ The expression *a watched pot never boils* means that time passes very slowly when you are waiting for something to happen if that is the only thing you are thinking about.

boil down [*phrasal verb*] **1 a** : to become reduced in amount by boiling ▪ Let the sauce *boil down* and thicken. **b** ***boil (something) down or boil down (something)*** : to reduce the amount of (a liquid) by boiling it ▪ *Boil down* the sauce so that it thickens. **2** ***boil (something) down or boil down (something)*** : to make (something) short or simple by removing the parts that are not important or necessary ▪ He was able to *boil down* [=*condense*] the report to a brief summary. **3** ***boil down to (something)*** : to have (something) as the main or basic part ▪ His speech *boiled down to* [=was basically] a plea for more money. ▪ Their objections all *boil down to* one thing: cost. ▪ You can get advice from many sources, but it all *boils down to* common sense. [=you should be guided by common sense]

boil over [*phrasal verb*] **1** : to flow over the side of a container while boiling ▪ The water in the pot is *boiling over*. = The pot (of water) is *boiling over*. **2 a** : to become violent or to lose control because of anger ▪ He's so mad that he's ready to *boil over*. **b** : to change *into* something more violent ▪ Their disagreement finally *boiled over into* a fight.

boil up [*phrasal verb*] : to grow toward a dangerous level ▪ He could feel the anger *boiling up* inside him. [=he could feel himself becoming very angry] ▪ Problems have been *boiling up* in the cities during the hot summer.

make someone's blood boil see BLOOD

[2]boil *noun, pl* **boils**

1 [*singular*] *of a liquid* : the act or state of boiling ▪ (*US*) Bring the water to a *boil*. = (*chiefly Brit*) Bring the water to the *boil*. [=boil the water] ▪ (*US*) The kettle on the stove came to a *boil*. = (*chiefly Brit*) The kettle on the stove came to the *boil*. [=the kettle began to boil] ▪ She put the kettle (of water) ***on the boil***. [=she put the kettle on a hot burner so that the water in it would boil] ▪ The mixture should be cooked at a ***slow boil***. [=with small bubbles rising slowly to the surface of the liquid] ▪ Bring the pot to a ***rolling boil***. [=to a state where large bubbles rise quickly to the surface of the liquid]

2 [*count*] *US* : a dish of shellfish, vegetables, and spices that is cooked by boiling ▪ a crab/shrimp *boil*; *also* : a party at which this dish is served ▪ They invited their family and friends to a crab *boil* on the beach.

off the boil *Brit, informal* : into a state that is less good than before ▪ After two hit singles, the band ***went off the boil***. [=the band was not as successful]

on the boil *Brit, informal* : in a state of activity or development ▪ The deal is still *on the boil*. ▪ kept their romance *on the boil*

– compare [3]BOIL

[3]boil *noun, pl* **boils** [*count*] : a painful, swollen area under the skin that is caused by infection — compare [2]BOIL

boiled sweet *noun, pl* ~ **sweets** [*count*] *Brit* : HARD CANDY

boil•er /'boɪlə/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]

1 : a large container in which water is heated to produce steam in an engine — see also DOUBLE BOILER

2 *chiefly Brit* : FURNACE b

boil•er•plate /'boɪlə,pleɪt/ *noun* [*noncount*] *US* : phrases or sentences that are a standard way of saying something and are often used ▪ The last paragraph of the contract was legal *boilerplate*. [=the last paragraph was exactly the same as paragraphs in other contracts] — often used before another noun ▪ a *boilerplate* speech that she has given many times

boiler room *noun, pl* ~ **rooms** [*count*]

1 : a room with equipment for heating a building or ship : a room in which a boiler is located

2 *US* : a room with many telephones that are used by people who call strangers and use dishonest or forceful methods to try to sell them something

boil•er•suit /'boɪlə,su:t/ *noun, pl* **-suits** *Brit* : COVERALL

[1]boil•ing /'boɪlɪŋ/ *adj* : very hot ▪ a *boiling* sun ▪ a *boiling*

summer day • I'm *boiling* in this suit. • It is *boiling* in here.

[2]boiling *adv* : very or extremely • The sun was ***boiling hot***. • He is ***boiling mad*** at how he was treated.

boiling point *noun, pl* ~ **points**
1 [*count*] : the temperature at which a liquid begins to boil • The *boiling point* of water is 212° Fahrenheit or 100° Celsius.
2 : the point at which people might do or say something violent or might take some definite or extreme action because of anger, disagreement, etc. [*count*] — usually singular • The incident brought tensions to a *boiling point*. • He sensed he had reached his *boiling point*. • (*chiefly US*) Tempers are reaching the *boiling point*. [*noncount*] (*Brit*) Tempers are reaching *boiling point*.

bois•ter•ous /ˈbɔɪstrəs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : very noisy and active in a lively way • A large and *boisterous* crowd attended the concert. • a *boisterous* drinking party • He had a big, *boisterous* [=*hearty*] laugh.
– **bois•ter•ous•ly** *adv* • They laughed *boisterously*.

bok choy (*US*) /ˈbɑːkˈʧɔɪ/ *or Brit* **pak choi** /ˈpɑːkˈʧɔɪ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a type of cabbage originally from China that has green leaves with thick, white stems

[1]bold /ˈboʊld/ *adj* **bold•er**; **-est** [*also more* ~; *most* ~]
1 a : not afraid of danger or difficult situations • The area was settled by *bold* [=*brave, courageous*] pioneers. • Few politicians have been *bold* enough to oppose the plan to cut taxes. **b** : showing or needing confidence or lack of fear • It's a *bold* plan that might fail. • Hiring a novice was a *bold* move.
2 : very confident in a way that may seem rude or foolish • He punished the *bold* child for talking back. • He ***was/made so bold*** as to guarantee a victory. [=he confidently guaranteed a victory] • I'd like to offer a few criticisms, ***if I may be so bold***.
3 : very noticeable or easily seen • She wore a dress with *bold* stripes. • The painting is done in *bold* colors.
4 *literary* : very steep • *bold* cliffs
5 : BOLD-FACED 2 • The headline was printed in large, *bold* type/lettering.
(as) bold as brass : not afraid at all : very confident or bold • I was too nervous to do it, but my sister went right up to him *(as) bold as brass* and asked for his autograph.
– **bold•ly** *adv* • He was *boldly* direct. • a *boldly* original painting • a *boldly* striped shirt – **bold•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

[2]bold *noun* [*noncount*] : BOLDFACE

bold•face /ˈboʊldˌfeɪs/ *noun* [*noncount*] : letters that are printed in thick, dark lines • The headline was printed in *boldface*. — see picture at FONT

bold–faced /ˈboʊldˈfeɪst/ *adj, chiefly US*
1 [*more* ~; *most* ~] *disapproving* : very obvious and showing no feeling of doing something wrong : BLATANT • a *bold-faced* lie • He is a *bold-faced* [=*bald-faced, barefaced*] liar.
2 *usually* ***bold•faced*** : having thick dark lines • The headline was printed in *boldfaced* [=*bold*] type. : printed in boldface • a *boldfaced* headline

bo•le•ro /bəˈleroʊ/ *noun, pl* **-ros** [*count*]
1 : a type of Spanish dance; *also* : the music for this dance
2 : a short jacket that does not close at the front

boll /ˈboʊl/ *noun, pl* **bolls** [*count*] : the part of the cotton plant that contains the seeds

bol•lard /ˈbɑːlɚd/ *noun, pl* **-lards** [*count*]
1 *Brit* : a post that prevents vehicles from going into an area where people can wait in the middle of a road
2 : a post around which a rope may be tied to keep a boat close to land

bol•lix /ˈbɑːlɪks/ *verb* **-lix•es**; **-lixed**; **-lix•ing** [+ *obj*] *US, informal* : to make mistakes in doing (something) : to upset or ruin (something) • That delay has *bollixed* our schedule. — usually + *up* • I *bollixed up* my income tax form and had to pay a penalty. • That one delay has *bollixed up* [=*messed up*] my whole week.

bol•locks /ˈbɑːləks/ *noun, Brit, informal + impolite*
1 [*noncount*] : foolish or untrue words or ideas : NONSENSE • They always say we talk *bollocks*. • It's all *bollocks*. I don't believe a word of it.
2 [*plural*] : TESTICLES • She kicked him in the *bollocks*.

boll weevil *noun, pl* ~ **-vils** [*count*] : a small insect that feeds on cotton plants

bo•lo•gna /bəˈloʊni/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a wide cooked sausage that is cut into thin pieces and eaten in sandwiches • a slice of *bologna* • a *bologna* sandwich

bo•lo tie /ˈboʊloʊ-/ *or* **bo•la tie** /ˈboʊlə-/ *noun, pl* ~ **ties** [*count*] *US* : a string that is worn around the neck and is held in place by a decorative piece in the front — called also *bolo* ✧ Bolo ties are worn as neckties by men mainly in the western half of the U.S.

Bol•she•vik /ˈboʊlʃəˌvɪk, ˈbɑːlʃəˌvɪk/ *noun, pl* **-viks** [*count*] : a member of the political party that started to rule Russia in 1917 or a member of a similar political party : COMMUNIST
– **Bolshevik** *adj* • the *Bolshevik* leader • the *Bolshevik* revolution/state

bol•shie *or* **bol•shy** /ˈboʊlʃi, ˈbɑːlʃi/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *Brit, informal* : refusing to obey or help • He turned *bolshie* and uncooperative. ✧ The word *bolshie* is a shortened form of *Bolshevik*.

[1]bol•ster /ˈboʊlstɚ/ *verb* **-sters**; **-stered**; **-ster•ing** [+ *obj*] : to make (something) stronger or better : to give support to (something) • She came with me to *bolster* my confidence. • a convincing argument that was *bolstered* by the speaker's reputation • He received news that *bolstered* [=*lifted*] his spirits. • She is thinking of ways to *bolster* her career/image.

[2]bolster *noun, pl* **-sters** [*count*] : a long bag of cloth completely filled with soft material : a long pillow or cushion

[1]bolt /ˈboʊlt/ *noun, pl* **bolts**
1 [*count*] : a bright line of light that appears in the sky during a storm : a flash of lightning • a *bolt* of lightning = a lightning *bolt* — often used figuratively in the phrases ***a bolt from the blue*** and ***a bolt out of the blue*** • The news of his firing came as/like *a bolt from the blue*. [=like a bolt of lightning from the sky; it was surprising and unexpected]
2 [*count*] **a** : a sliding bar that is used to lock a door or window **b** : the part of a lock that is moved by a key — see also DEAD BOLT
3 [*count*] : a long, round piece of metal that has a wider part at one end and is like a screw at the other end ✧ A bolt and a nut are used together to hold something in place. — see picture at CARPENTRY; see also *nuts and bolts* at NUT
4 [*singular*] *Brit* : the act of running or moving quickly and suddenly in a particular direction or to a particular place • When he saw the police, he ***made a bolt for*** [=*made a dash for*] the door. • The thief ***made a bolt for it***. [=ran away]
5 [*count*] : a large roll of cloth
6 [*count*] : a tube-shaped metal part inside a gun
7 [*count*] : a short, heavy arrow that is shot from a type of weapon (called a crossbow) used mainly in the past ✧ If you ***have shot your bolt***, you have done or used everything possible to try to do something, and there is nothing more that you can do. • The team had *shot its bolt* in the first quarter and didn't score again.

[2]bolt *verb* **bolts**; **bolt•ed**; **bolt•ing**
1 [*no obj*] **a** *always followed by an adverb, adjective, or preposition* : to move or go very suddenly and quickly from or to a particular place, position, or condition • He *bolted* up from the chair. • She *bolted* awake when the alarm sounded. • She *bolted* to her feet. • Reporters *bolted* [=*rushed*] for the door from which the mayor appeared. • The firefighters *bolted* [=*sprang*] into action. **b** : to run away suddenly and quickly • The horse *bolted* when it heard the gunfire. • He took the money and *bolted*.
2 *US* : to suddenly leave a political party, team, etc. [*no obj*] The coach *bolted* to a new team. [+ *obj*] Some unhappy members have threatened to *bolt* the party and support the opposition.
3 a : to fasten (something) tightly : to lock (something) with a bolt [+ *obj*] She closed and *bolted* the door. • Is the door *bolted*? [*no obj*] The door *bolts* on the inside. **b** [+ *obj*] : to attach (something) firmly : to attach (something) with a bolt • He *bolted* the panels together. • The bench was *bolted* to the floor.
4 [+ *obj*] : to eat (food) quickly • Mom told my brother not to *bolt* his food. — often + *down* • He *bolted down* his dinner and rushed out the door.

[3]bolt *adv* : with the back in a very straight position • She sat ***bolt upright***, staring straight ahead.

bolt–hole /ˈboʊltˌhoʊl/ *noun, pl* **-holes** [*count*] *Brit* : a safe or restful place : a place where you can hide or escape from something that is dangerous or unpleasant • They considered the inn a *bolt-hole* in times of stress.

[1]bomb /ˈbɑːm/ *noun, pl* **bombs**
1 a [*count*] : a device that is designed to explode in order to injure or kill people or to damage or destroy property • A *bomb* went off downtown. • The *bomb* is set to detonate at 3:00. = The *bomb* will blow up at 3:00. • Many *bombs* were dropped on the city during the war. • They hid/planted a

bomb in the building. ▪ a ***pipe bomb*** [=a bomb made from a piece of pipe] ▪ a ***suicide bomb*** [=a bomb carried by someone who plans to be killed by it when it explodes] — often used before another noun ▪ a *bomb* explosion/blast ▪ a ***bomb site*** [=a place where a bomb has exploded] ▪ Someone called in a ***bomb threat*** [=a message saying that a bomb is located in a particular place], so the building was evacuated. ▪ a ***bomb squad*** [=a group of people who have the job of preventing bombs from causing damage or injury] **b** ***the bomb*** : nuclear weapons ▪ countries that have *the bomb*

2 [*count*] *US, informal* : something that is a complete failure — usually singular ▪ The movie was a *bomb*. [=*flop*]

3 a ***the bomb*** *US slang* : something or someone that is very good ▪ Their new album is *the bomb*. [=their new album is great] **b** [*singular*] *Brit, informal* : something that is very successful ▪ The party ***went down/like a bomb*** [=the party was a success], and everybody enjoyed themselves.

4 [*count*] **a** *American football* : a long pass ▪ The quarterback threw a *bomb* to the wide receiver. **b** *basketball* : a long shot ▪ She's good at shooting three-point *bombs*. **c** *baseball* : a long home run ▪ He hit a three-run *bomb* over the left field wall.

5 [*singular*] *Brit, informal* : a large amount of money ▪ She paid a *bomb* for the car. ▪ I'm looking for a new computer that doesn't cost a *bomb*.

drop a bomb *or* ***drop the bomb*** *informal* : to do or say something that is very shocking and unexpected ▪ She *dropped a bomb* with her resignation. [=her resignation was a complete surprise] ▪ She *dropped the bomb* on her husband and asked for a divorce.

²bomb *verb* **bombs; bombed; bomb•ing**

1 [+ *obj*] : to attack (a place or people) with a bomb or many bombs ▪ The city was heavily *bombed* during the war. ▪ The planes flew 200 miles to *bomb* their target.

2 a [*no obj*] *informal* : to fail completely ▪ The plan *bombed* (out). ▪ The movie *bombed* at the box office. ▪ The play *bombed* on Broadway. ▪ He *bombed* at/in his first performance. **b** [+ *obj*] *US slang* : to fail (a test) ▪ I completely *bombed* my math exam.

3 *always followed by an adverb or preposition* [*no obj*] *informal* : to move or go very quickly ▪ A car was *bombing* down the highway. ▪ teenagers *bombing* around in a convertible

4 [+ *obj*] **a** *US, sports* : to hit (a ball) very hard ▪ He *bombed* a homer in the ninth inning. **b** *baseball* : to score many runs against (a pitcher) ▪ The relief pitcher was *bombed* in the ninth inning.

– **bombing** *noun, pl* **-ings** [*noncount*] The city was subjected to heavy *bombing* during the war. [*count*] The building was destroyed by repeated *bombings*. ▪ suicide *bombings* — often used before another noun ▪ a *bombing* attack/campaign

bom•bard /bɑm'bɑɚd/ *verb* **-bards; -bard•ed; -bard•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to attack (a place) with bombs, large guns, etc. ▪ The navy *bombarded* the shore.

2 : to hit or attack (something or someone) constantly or repeatedly ▪ Scientists *bombarded* the sample with X-rays. ▪ The car was *bombarded* by rocks as it drove away from the angry crowd. — often used figuratively ▪ He is being *bombarded* by offers. ▪ We are constantly being *bombarded* by ads. ▪ The actress was *bombarded* with questions.

– **bom•bard•ment** /bɑm'bɑɚdmənt/ *noun, pl* **-ments** [*count*] During the war, *bombardments* occurred every night. [*noncount*] The city was subjected to aerial *bombardment*. [=bombs were dropped on the city from airplanes]

bom•bar•dier /ˌbɑ:mbə'diɚ/ *noun, pl* **-diers** [*count*]

1 *chiefly US* : the person in a military aircraft who controls when the bombs are dropped

2 : an officer who operates large guns and has a low rank in the British Army

bom•bast /'bɑ:mˌbæst/ *noun* [*noncount*] *formal* : speech or writing that is meant to sound important or impressive but is not sincere or meaningful ▪ political *bombast*

– **bom•bas•tic** /bɑm'bæstɪk/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ a *bombastic* speech/speaker – **bom•bas•ti•cal•ly** /bɑm'bæstɪkli/ *adv*

bombed /'bɑ:md/ *adj, not used before a noun, US, informal* : affected by alcohol or drugs : very drunk or intoxicated ▪ He was *bombed* out of his mind. [=he was so drunk that he didn't know what he was doing]

bombed–out /'bɑ:md'aʊt/ *adj*

1 : destroyed by bombs ▪ We passed many *bombed-out* buildings in the ruined city. ▪ The factory was completely *bombed-out* during the war.

2 : forced out of a house or a building by bombing ▪ *bombed-out* families/workers

bomb•er /'bɑ:mɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]

1 : a military aircraft designed for dropping bombs ▪ a *bomber* pilot

2 : a person who takes a bomb to a place so that it will explode there : a person who bombs a place ▪ a ***suicide bomber*** [=someone who takes a bomb to a place and expects to be killed by it when it explodes]

bomber jacket *noun, pl* ~ **-ets** [*count*] : a short jacket that is made of leather and fits closely around the waist

bomb•proof /'bɑ:mˌpru:f/ *adj* : strong enough to protect someone or something from the force of bombs ▪ a *bombproof* bunker/shelter — sometimes used figuratively ▪ a *bombproof* investment [=a very safe investment]

bomb•shell /'bɑ:mˌʃɛl/ *noun, pl* **-shells** [*count*]

1 : something that is very surprising or shocking — usually singular ▪ The book was a political *bombshell*. ▪ The news of his departure was a *bombshell*. ▪ She ***dropped a bombshell*** [=she surprised everyone] when she said she wouldn't run for reelection.

2 *informal* : a very attractive woman — usually used in the phrase ***blond/blonde bombshell*** to refer to an attractive woman with blonde hair ▪ She's a *blonde bombshell* who looks like a movie star of the 1950s.

bo•na fide /'boʊnəˌfaɪd, ˌboʊnə'faɪdi/ *adj*

1 : real or genuine ▪ She has established her position as a *bona fide* celebrity. ▪ His latest record was a *bona fide* hit.

2 *law* : made or done in an honest and sincere way ▪ a *bona fide* offer ▪ They have a *bona fide* claim for the loss.

bo•na fides /ˌboʊnə'faɪˌdi:z/ *noun* [*plural*] *formal* : evidence which shows that what you have said about yourself is true : evidence showing that you deserve a position or that you can be trusted ▪ She has worked hard to establish her *bona fides* with the company. [=to show the company that she can be trusted] ✧ *Bona fides* can be used with a singular or plural verb. ▪ The lawyer's *bona fides* was/were questioned.

bo•nan•za /bə'nænzə/ *noun, pl* **-zas** [*count*]

1 : something that produces very good results for someone or something — usually singular ▪ The movie turned out to be a box-office *bonanza*. [=the movie made a great deal of money] ▪ The program has been a ratings *bonanza* for the network. [=the program has received very high ratings] ▪ The discovery proved to be a *bonanza* for scientists.

2 : a large amount *of* something valuable — usually singular ▪ Her research resulted in a *bonanza of* information.

bon ap•pé•tit /ˌboʊnæpə'ti:/ *interj* — used to tell someone to enjoy a meal ✧ The phrase *bon appétit* comes from French.

bon•bon /'bɑ:nˌbɑ:n/ *noun, pl* **-bons** [*count*] : a type of candy that usually has a chocolate cover and a soft center ▪ chocolate *bonbons*

bonce /'bɑ:ns/ *noun, pl* **bonc•es** [*count*] *Brit slang* : a person's head ▪ a bald *bonce*

¹bond /'bɑ:nd/ *noun, pl* **bonds**

1 [*count*] : something (such as an idea, interest, experience, or feeling) that is shared between people or groups and forms a connection between them ▪ the *bonds* of friendship ▪ a daughter's *bond* with her mother ▪ family/kinship *bonds* ▪ Recent events have helped to strengthen the *bonds* between our two countries. ▪ My roommate and I share a ***common bond*** because we both grew up in the Midwest. ▪ ***the bonds of holy matrimony*** [=the connection between two people who are married to each other]

2 [*count*] *finance* : an official document in which a government or company promises to pay back an amount of money that it has borrowed and to pay interest for the borrowed money ▪ She has invested most of her money in stocks and *bonds*. ▪ The city issued *bonds* [=the city created bonds and sold them to investors] to pay for the new school. ▪ municipal *bonds* [=bonds issued by a local government] — see also JUNK BOND, SAVINGS BOND

3 [*count*] *formal* : a chain or rope that is used to prevent someone from moving or acting freely — usually plural ▪ The prisoner was able to break free from the *bonds* that held him. — often used figuratively ▪ They struggled to free themselves from the *bonds* of oppression.

4 [*count*] : the condition of being held together or joined ▪

The glue provides a good/strong *bond* between the two pieces of wood.

5 [*count*] *chemistry* : a force that holds together the atoms in a molecule ▪ chemical *bonds* — see also DOUBLE BOND, SINGLE BOND, TRIPLE BOND

6 [*count*] *formal* : a promise or agreement to do something ▪ You can believe me when I say I'll help you. ***My word is my bond.*** [=I always do what I promise to do]

7 [*noncount*] *chiefly US, law* : the amount of money that someone promises to pay if a prisoner who is allowed to leave jail does not return later for a trial or to prison : an agreement to pay bail ▪ The accused was released on $10,000 *bond*. [=the person accused of a crime was released from jail because someone promised to pay $10,000 if the accused person does not appear for the trial]

8 [*noncount*] : BOND PAPER ▪ used high-quality *bond* for the letter

²bond *verb* **bonds; bond•ed; bond•ing**

1 a [+ *obj*] : to join (things) together ▪ Heat was used to *bond* the sheets of plastic together. ▪ The poster was *bonded* to the wall with glue/adhesive. **b** [*no obj*] : to join to something else ▪ The pieces of wood *bonded* (to each other) well.

2 [*no obj*] : to form a close relationship with someone — often + *with* ▪ We were strangers at first, but we *bonded* (*with* each other) quickly. ▪ A new mother *bonds with* her baby.

– **bonding** *adj, always used before a noun* ▪ a *bonding* agent [=a glue, an adhesive]

bond•age /ˈbɑːndɪʤ/ *noun* [*noncount*]

1 *formal + literary* : the state of being a slave : SLAVERY ▪ He delivered the slaves from *bondage*. [=he freed the slaves] ▪ a population held/kept in *bondage* — often used figuratively ▪ He struggled in the *bondage* of drug addiction.

2 : sexual activity that involves tying a person up for pleasure

bonding *noun* [*noncount*] : the process of forming a close relationship with someone ▪ mother-child *bonding* ▪ He and his dad spent the weekend together for some ***male bonding***.

bond paper *noun* [*noncount*] : a paper that can be used for documents ▪ printed the letter on *bond paper* — called also *bond*

bonds•man /ˈbɑːndzmən/ *noun, pl* **-men** /-mən/ [*count*] *chiefly US, law* : a person who agrees to make a payment if a prisoner who is released from prison does not return : a person who agrees to pay a bond

¹bone /ˈboʊn/ *noun, pl* **bones**

1 [*count*] : any one of the hard pieces that form the frame (called a skeleton) inside a person's or animal's body ▪ He broke a *bone* in his left arm. ▪ The leg *bone* is connected to the knee *bone*. — sometimes used figuratively ▪ He doesn't have a selfish/jealous *bone* in his body. [=he is not selfish/jealous at all] ▪ My *bones* are aching from working in the garden. ▪ My aching *bones*! [=my body is tired and sore] ▪ I'll be glad to have a chance to ***rest my weary bones***. ▪ He ***knew in his bones*** [=*knew in his heart*; had a strong feeling] that he was wrong. ▪ She ***felt in her bones*** [=she sensed very strongly] that nothing had changed. — see also BAG OF BONES, BARE BONES, FUNNY BONE

2 [*noncount*] : the hard material that bones are made of ▪ a piece of *bone* ▪ We are all made of flesh and *bone*. ▪ The handle of the knife is made from *bone*.

bone of contention see CONTENTION

bone to pick *informal* : something to argue or complain about with someone — usually + *with* ▪ I ***have a bone to pick with*** you!

bred in the bone see ¹BREED

close to the bone see ²CLOSE

make no bones about : to be very sure and definite about (something) ▪ *Make no bones about* the seriousness of the matter. ▪ He *made no bones about* his plans to cut expenses. ▪ ***Make no bones about it***—we will win.

off the bone : with the meat removed from the bone or bones ▪ The pork is served *off the bone*.

on the bone : with the meat connected to the bone or bones ▪ The ham was *on the bone*.

skin and bones see ¹SKIN

throw (someone) a bone *informal* : to offer (someone) something that is not very important or valuable especially to stop complaints or protests ▪ The boss would not let his workers out early for the holiday but *threw them a bone* by buying lunch.

to the bone **1** : very much ▪ We were frozen *to the bone*. [=we were very cold] ▪ The threatening look in his eyes ***chilled me to the bone***. [=made me feel very fearful] **2** : as much as possible ▪ The company has cut costs *to the bone* in an effort to save money.

work your fingers to the bone see ¹FINGER

– **bone•less** /ˈboʊnləs/ *adj* ▪ *boneless* ham [=ham from which the bone has been removed] ▪ The chicken breast is *boneless*.

²bone *verb* **bones; boned; bon•ing** [+ *obj*] : to remove the bones from (a fish or meat) : DEBONE ▪ *bone* a fish ▪ *bone* a chicken breast

bone up [*phrasal verb*] *informal* **1** : to try to learn a lot of information quickly for a test, exam, etc. ▪ She *boned up* [=*crammed*] for the exam. **2** : to study something again ▪ He's going to *bone up* the night before the test. — usually + *on* ▪ She *boned up on* the speech just before giving it. ▪ I have to *bone up on* [=*brush up on*] my French for my trip.

³bone *adv, always used before an adjective* : extremely or very : completely or totally ▪ *bone* tired/lazy/idle ▪ The air is *bone* dry. — often used in combination ▪ a *bone*-dry desert climate

bone–chill•ing /ˈboʊnˌʧɪlɪŋ/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

1 : very cold ▪ a *bone-chilling* wind

2 : causing strong feelings of fear, terror, etc. ▪ a *bone-chilling* scream

bone china *noun* [*noncount*] : thin white plates, bowls, cups, etc., made from clay and crushed bones

boned /ˈboʊnd/ *adj*

1 : having bones of a specified type — used in combination ▪ She is a small-*boned* person. ▪ a big-*boned* horse

2 : with the bones removed ▪ *boned* chicken ▪ a *boned* fish

bone•head /ˈboʊnˌhɛd/ *noun, pl* **-heads** [*count*] *informal* : a stupid or foolish person ▪ I told him he was acting like a *bonehead*. [=*numbskull*] — often used before another noun ▪ a *bonehead* [=*boneheaded*] decision

– **bone•head•ed** /ˈboʊnˈhɛdəd/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ a *boneheaded* mistake – **bone•head•ed•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

bone marrow *noun* [*noncount*] : a soft substance that fills the bones of people and animals — called also *marrow*

bone•meal /ˈboʊnˌmiːl/ *noun* [*noncount*] : bones that have been crushed or ground and that are added to soil to help plants grow better

bon•er /ˈboʊnɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] *US, informal*

1 : a foolish or careless mistake ▪ The manager pulled a *boner* [=made a stupid mistake] and lost the game.

2 *impolite* : an erection of the penis

bone•yard /ˈboʊnˌjɑɚd/ *noun, pl* **-yards** [*count*] *US, informal* : CEMETERY

bon•fire /ˈbɑːnˌfajɚ/ *noun, pl* **-fires** [*count*] : a large outdoor fire

Bonfire Night *noun* [*count, noncount*] : the night of November 5th observed in Britain with fireworks and bonfires to celebrate the capture in 1605 of a group of people who planned to destroy the buildings of Parliament

¹bong /ˈbɑːŋ/ *noun, pl* **bongs** [*count*] : a deep loud sound that is made by a large bell — compare ²BONG

²bong *noun, pl* **bongs** [*count*] : a device that is used for smoking marijuana in which the smoke is passed through water : WATER PIPE — compare ¹BONG

bon•go /ˈbɑːŋgoʊ/ *noun, pl* **-gos** [*count*] : one of a pair of small drums that are joined together and played with the hands — called also *bongo drum*; see picture at PERCUSSION

bon•ho•mie /ˌbɑːnəˈmiː, *Brit* ˈbɒnəmi/ *noun* [*noncount*] *formal* : a feeling of friendliness among a group of people ▪ the *bonhomie* of strangers singing together around a campfire

bonk /ˈbɑːŋk/ *verb* **bonks; bonked; bonk•ing** [+ *obj*] *informal*

1 : to hit (someone or something) ▪ He *bonked* him on the head. ▪ The golf ball *bonked* the hood of the car.

2 *Brit* : to have sexual intercourse with (someone)

bonk•ers /ˈbɑːŋkɚz/ *adj, not used before a noun, informal* : CRAZY ▪ You have to be *bonkers* to gamble that much. ▪ I was ***driven bonkers*** by the noise.

go bonkers *informal* : to become very excited or angry ▪ The fans *went bonkers* when their team won.

bon mot /ˌbɑːnˈmoʊ/ *noun, pl* **bons mots** *or* **bon mots** /ˌbɑːnˈmoʊ/ [*count*] *formal* : a clever remark : WITTICISM ▪ She had a sparkling *bon mot* for every occasion. ✧ This term is from French and literally means "good word."

bon•net /ˈbɑːnət/ *noun, pl* **-nets** [*count*]

1 : a hat that ties under the chin ✧ Bonnets were worn by women in the past but are now only worn by babies.

2 *Brit* : [1]HOOD 2b • He lifted the car's *bonnet* to check the engine.

have a bee in your bonnet see [1]BEE

bon•ny *also* **bon•nie** /'bɑ:ni/ *adj* **bon•ni•er; -est** *chiefly Scotland* : very pretty or attractive • a *bonny* lass/baby

bon•sai /'bɑ:n,saɪ/ *noun, pl* **bon•sai**

1 [*count*] : a very small tree or bush that is grown in a pot by using special methods to control its growth

2 [*noncount*] : the art of growing bonsai



bonsai

bo•nus /'boʊnəs/ *noun, pl* **-nus•es** [*count*]

1 : something good that is more than what was expected or required • As a *bonus* for good behavior you can stay up late. • The product has the ***added bonus*** of providing extra vitamins.

2 : an extra amount of money that is given to an employee • Staff members were given a *bonus* for finishing the project on schedule. • The company offered *bonuses* to entice new workers. • We receive annual *bonuses* at the end of the year.

bon vi•vant /ˌbɑ:nvi'vɑ:nt/ *noun, pl* **bons vi•vants** *or* **bon vi•vants** /ˌbɑ:nvi'vɑnts/ [*count*] *formal* : a person who likes going to parties and other social occasions and who enjoys good food, wine, etc. — called also (*Brit*) *bon viveur*

bon voy•age /ˌbɑ:nvoɪ'ɑ:ʒ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : [2]FAREWELL 1 • The crowd waved *bon voyage* as the ship left the dock. — usually used to say that you hope someone who is leaving on a trip will have a good journey • People in the crowd shouted "*Bon voyage*!" as the ship left the dock. • *Bon voyage*. Have a safe trip. • We went with him to the station to ***wish/bid him bon voyage***.

bony /'boʊni/ *adj* **bon•i•er; -est** [*more* ~; *most* ~]

1 : resembling bone • a hard, *bony* substance

2 : full of bones • a *bony* piece of fish

3 : having large or noticeable bones • *bony* fingers/knees

4 : very thin • I used to be fat but my sister was always *bony*.

[1]boo /'bu:/ *noun, pl* **boos**

1 [*count*] : a sound that people make to show they do not like or approve of someone or something • A chorus of *boos* was heard after the shot missed the goal. • The announcement was greeted by/with a mixture of *boos* and cheers.

2 [*noncount*] *informal* : any sound at all — usually used in negative statements • He never said *boo* [=he never said anything], so I didn't even know he was there. ✧ A person who (*US*) ***wouldn't say boo*** or (*Brit*) ***wouldn't say boo to a goose*** is very quiet and shy.

[2]boo *interj*

1 — used to show dislike or disapproval of someone or something • The crowd shouted "*Boo*!" when the announcement was made. • *Boo*! Get off the stage. ✧ When people say "Boo!" with this meaning, they say it very slowly.

2 — used when a person frightens someone • My brother scared me when he jumped out from behind the door and shouted "*Boo*!" ✧ When people say "Boo!" with this meaning, they say it very quickly.

[3]boo *verb* **boos; booed; boo•ing** : to show dislike or disapproval of someone or something by shouting "Boo" slowly [*no obj*] Many people in the crowd *booed* when the announcement was made. [+ *obj*] Many people in the crowd *booed* the announcement, but a few people cheered it. • The crowd *booed* the singer off the stage. [=the crowd booed so much that the singer stopped singing and left the stage]

– booing *noun* [*noncount*] • The *booing* was so loud I could hardly hear the announcement.

[1]boob /'bu:b/ *noun, pl* **boobs** [*count*] *US, informal* : a stupid or foolish person • She's not the helpless *boob* she seems to be. • an incompetent *boob* — compare [2]BOOB, [3]BOOB

[2]boob *noun, pl* **boobs** [*count*] *informal + sometimes offensive* : a woman's breast • a woman with big *boobs* • She plans to have a ***boob job***. [=a surgical operation to increase the size of a woman's breasts] — compare [1]BOOB, [3]BOOB

[3]boob *noun, pl* **boobs** [*count*] *Brit, informal* : a foolish or careless mistake — compare [1]BOOB, [2]BOOB

[4]boob *verb* **boobs; boobed; boob•ing** [*no obj*] *Brit, informal* : to make a foolish or careless mistake • Officials really *boobed* [=(*chiefly US*) *goofed*] on handling the situation and made it worse.

boo–boo /'bu:ˌbu:/ *noun, pl* **-boos** [*count*] *informal*

1 : a small injury (such as a bruise or scratch) — used especially by children or when speaking to children • She fell down and got a *boo-boo*. • Did you get a *boo-boo*?

2 : a foolish or careless mistake • I made a slight *boo-boo* when I added up the numbers. • a major diplomatic *boo-boo*

boob tube *noun, pl* ~ **tubes**

1 ***the boob tube*** *US, informal + often disapproving* : TELEVISION • They spent the evening in front of *the boob tube*. • What's on *the boob tube* tonight?

2 [*count*] *Brit* : TUBE TOP

[1]boo•by /'bu:bi/ *noun, pl* **-bies** [*count*] *chiefly Brit, informal* : a stupid or foolish person • a witless *booby* — compare [2]BOOBY

[2]booby *noun, pl* **-bies** [*count*] *US, informal + sometimes offensive* : a woman's breast — compare [1]BOOBY

booby hatch *noun*

the booby hatch *informal + often offensive* : a hospital for people who are mentally ill

booby prize *noun, pl* ~ **prizes** [*count*] *informal* : a prize that is given as a joke to the person who finishes last in a competition — usually singular • You came in last—you win/get the *booby prize*.

booby trap *noun, pl* ~ **traps** [*count*]

1 : a hidden bomb that explodes when the object connected to it is touched, moved, etc. • Someone had rigged a *booby trap* that blew up the car when the engine was started.

2 : a trap that is set as a joke to shock or frighten someone • We set a *booby trap* by balancing a bucket of water on top of the door so that it would fall on him when he came in.

– boo•by–trap *verb* **-traps; -trapped; -trap•ping** [+ *obj*] • Someone had *booby-trapped* the car. • His roommate *booby-trapped* the door. **– booby–trapped** *adj* • The house is *booby-trapped*. • a *booby-trapped* car

boog•er /'bu:gɚ/ *noun, pl* **-gers** [*count*] *US, informal* : a piece of mucus from the nose — used especially by children

boo•gey•man /'boʊgiˌmæn/ *noun, pl* **-men** /-ˌmɛn/ [*count*] *US*

1 : BOGEYMAN 1

2 : BOGEYMAN 2

[1]boo•gie /'boʊgi, *Brit* 'bu:gi/ *noun* [*noncount*] : BOOGIE-WOOGIE

[2]boo•gie *also* **boo•gy** *or* **boo•gey** /'boʊgi, *Brit* 'bu:gi/ *verb* **boo•gies** *also* **boo•geys; boo•gied** *also* **boo•geyed; boo•gy•ing** *also* **boo•gey•ing** [*no obj*] *informal*

1 : to dance especially to rock music • Everyone at the disco was just *boogying* (down) all night.

2 *US* : to move or go quickly • Let's *boogie* on out of here.

boo•gie–woo•gie /ˌboʊgi'woʊgi, *Brit* ˌbu:gi'wu:gi/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a style of playing a type of music similar to jazz (called the blues) on the piano with a fast, strong, steady beat

[1]book /'bʊk/ *noun, pl* **books**

1 [*count*] **a** : a set of printed sheets of paper that are held together inside a cover : a long written work • The shelves in his office are filled with *books*. • That's one of the best *books* I've read in a long time. • a novelist who has written some wonderful *books* • a *book* about plumbing • The library has many dictionaries and other reference *books*. • a hardcover/paperback *book* — sometimes used figuratively • You can learn many things by studying the great *book* of nature. [=by studying nature] **b** : a long written work that can be read on a computer : E-BOOK • an electronic *book*

2 [*count*] : a set of sheets of paper that are inside a cover and that you can write information on • an appointment *book* • an address *book* — see also NOTEBOOK

3 [*count*] : a major section of a long written work (such as the Bible) • the *books* of the Bible • a story that is told in the *Book* of Job — see also GOOD BOOK

4 [*count*] : a set of things held together inside a cover like the pages of a book • a *book* of stamps • a *book* of matches [=a matchbook] — see also CHECKBOOK

5 ***books*** [*plural*] **a** : the financial records of a business • The company's *books* [=*accounts*] show a profit. **b** : the official records of a business or organization • I'm sorry, but your name does not appear in/on our *books*.

6 ***the book*** *US, informal* : the knowledge or information that relates to a particular subject, person, etc. • *The book* on him is that he can't hit a curveball. [=people have seen and reported that he can't hit a curveball]

7 ***the book*** *informal* : PHONE BOOK • Give me a call if you need to. I'm in *the book*. [=my telephone number is listed in the telephone book]

a closed book : a person or thing that is difficult to understand • Even to his closest friends, he was always something of *a closed book*. — compare AN OPEN BOOK (below)

an open book : a person or thing that is easy to learn about and understand • My life is *an open book*. I have nothing to hide.

bring (someone) to book *chiefly Brit, formal* : to require (someone) to explain and accept punishment or criticism for bad or wrong behavior • The people responsible for these crimes must be *brought to book*. [=*brought to account*]

by the book : by following the official rules very strictly • My boss insists on doing everything *by the book*. • They ran all the investigations *by the book*.

cook the books see [2]COOK

every trick in the book see [1]TRICK

hit the books *informal* : to study or begin studying very intensely • I've got to *hit the books* all weekend if I'm going to pass this test.

in my book *informal* : in my opinion • She deserves credit, *in my book*, for much of the company's recent success. • He isn't even a good boss, at least not *in my book*.

in someone's bad books *chiefly Brit, informal* : in a state in which you are not liked or treated nicely by someone • He remains *in her bad books*. [=she is still displeased with him]

in someone's good books *chiefly Brit, informal* : in a state in which you are liked or are treated nicely by someone • He's trying to get back *in his boss's good books* by offering to work overtime.

one for the books : a very unusual, important, or surprising situation, statement, event, etc. • There have been a lot of scandals in local politics over the years, but this is *one for the books*.

on the books : part of the set of official laws • It's an outdated law that's still *on the books*.

read someone like a book see [1]READ

suit someone's book see [2]SUIT

throw the book at *informal* : to punish (someone) as severely as possible • The judge threatened to *throw the book at* him if he committed another offense. • I thought I would get off with just a warning, but they *threw the book at* me.

write the book on see WRITE

[2]book *verb* **books; booked; book•ing**

1 : to make arrangements so that you will be able to use or have (something, such as a room, table, or seat) at a later time [+ *obj*] We *booked* [=*reserved*] a hotel room. • They *booked* two seats at the theater. • They *booked* tickets for a direct flight from London to New York. • I *booked* a table at our favorite restaurant. [*no obj*] She *booked* through her travel agent. • We will need to *book* early. ✧ This sense is used in U.S. English, but it is more common in British English. In U.S. English, *reserve* or *make a reservation for* is more commonly used. ✧ When a hotel, restaurant, etc., is ***booked (up)***, ***booked solid***, or ***fully booked***, there are no more rooms, tables, etc., available. These forms are commonly used in both U.S. and British English. • The hotels in the city were *booked solid* for the conference. • The flight was *fully booked*. • The hotel was all *booked up* for the week.

2 [+ *obj*] : to make arrangements for (someone) to do, use, or have something at a later time • She *booked* me on a flight from Oslo to Paris. • He was *booked* to sail on Monday.

3 [+ *obj*] : to schedule a performance or appearance by (someone, such as a musician) • The band was *booked* to play at the reception. • *book* a singer

4 [+ *obj*] *law* : to write down in an official police record the name of (a person who is being charged with a crime) — usually used as *(be) booked* • She *was booked* on suspicion of murder.

5 [+ *obj*] *Brit, of a soccer referee* : to write down in an official book the name of (a player who has broken the rules in a game) — usually used as *(be) booked* • He *was booked* for a late tackle.

book in/into [*phrasal verb*] ***book in or book into (something)*** *Brit* : to arrive at and be given a room in a hotel, an inn, etc. • We *booked in* [=*checked in*] shortly after noon. • We *booked into* [=*checked into*] our hotel shortly after noon.

– **book•able** /ˈbʊkəbəl/ *adj, chiefly Brit* • *bookable* flights/seats • *bookable* hotel rooms

[3]book *adj, always used before a noun* : learned from reading books and not from experience • His schooling provided him with extensive *book* knowledge/learning. • She had plenty of *book* learning but no hands-on experience.

book•bind•ing /ˈbʊkˌbaɪndɪŋ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the process or job of attaching the pages of a book together inside a cover

– **book•bind•er** /ˈbʊkˌbaɪndɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]

book•case /ˈbʊkˌkeɪs/ *noun, pl* **-cases** [*count*] : a piece of furniture with shelves to hold books — see picture at LIVING ROOM

book club *noun, pl* **~ clubs** [*count*]

1 : an organization that sells books to its members at low prices

2 : a group of people who meet to talk about the books that they are reading

book•end /ˈbʊkˌɛnd/ *noun, pl* **-ends** [*count*] : something placed at the end of a row of books to hold them up • a pair of *bookends* shaped like horses • He used an empty flowerpot as a *bookend*.

book•ie /ˈbʊki/ *noun, pl* **-ies** [*count*] *informal* : BOOKMAKER • Their *bookie* is giving good odds.

book•ing /ˈbʊkɪŋ/ *noun, pl* **-ings**

1 : an arrangement for a person or group (such as a singer or band) to perform at a particular place [*count*] She has several concert *bookings* this fall. • The comedian missed some *bookings* because of illness. [*noncount*] All *booking* is done by the band's manager.

2 : an arrangement to have something (such as a room) held for your use at a later time [*count*] Our hotel register shows no *booking* [=(*US* more commonly) *reservation*] for you. • cruise ship *bookings* [*noncount*] Advance *booking* [=(*US* more commonly) *reservation*] is required. • *booking* fees • a *booking* agent

3 [*count*] *Brit, soccer* : the act of officially recording the name of a player who has broken the rules in a game

booking office *noun, pl* **~ -fices** [*count*] *Brit* : a place in a train station or bus station where people can buy tickets

book•ish /ˈbʊkɪʃ/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] *sometimes disapproving* : more interested in reading books and studying than doing more physical activities (such as sports) • Their teacher was a *bookish* fellow.

– **book•ish•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

book•keep•er /ˈbʊkˌki:pɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : a person whose job is to keep the financial records for a business

– **book•keep•ing** /ˈbʊkˌki:pɪŋ/ *noun* [*noncount*] • He does the *bookkeeping*. • a *bookkeeping* error

book•let /ˈbʊklət/ *noun, pl* **-lets** [*count*] : a book with only a few pages that contains information on one subject • This *booklet* describes how to set up the DVD player. • The speaker handed out *booklets* [=*pamphlets*] on AIDS awareness.

book•mak•er /ˈbʊkˌmeɪkɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : a person who decides how likely it is that an event will occur (such as the winning of a race by a particular horse) and receives and pays off bets about it — called also (*informal*) *bookie*

– **book•mak•ing** /ˈbʊkˌmeɪkɪŋ/ *noun* [*noncount*]

[1]book•mark /ˈbʊkˌmɑɚk/ *noun, pl* **-marks** [*count*]

1 *or* ***book•mark•er*** /ˈbʊkˌmɑɚkɚ/ : something (such as a piece of paper) that is put in a book to show the place where you stopped reading

2 *computers* : something (such as a menu entry or icon) that allows you to go quickly and directly to something (such as an Internet site) that you have seen before

[2]bookmark *verb* **-marks; -marked; -mark•ing** [+ *obj*] *computers* : to create a computer bookmark for (something, such as an Internet site) • I *bookmarked* the site.

book•mo•bile /ˈbʊkmoʊˌbi:l/ *noun, pl* **-biles** [*count*] *US* : a large vehicle that contains many library books and that goes to different places so that people can borrow the books — called also (*Brit*) *mobile library*

book•plate /ˈbʊkˌpleɪt/ *noun, pl* **-plates** [*count*] : a piece of paper stuck on the inside front cover of a book that shows the name of the person who owns the book

book•sell•er /ˈbʊkˌsɛlɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : a person or company that sells books

– **book•sell•ing** /ˈbʊkˌsɛlɪŋ/ *noun* [*noncount*]

book•shelf /ˈbʊkˌʃɛlf/ *noun, pl* **-shelves** [*count*] : a shelf that is used for books

book•shop /ˈbʊkˌʃɑ:p/ *noun, pl* **-shops** [*count*] : BOOKSTORE

book•stall /ˈbʊkˌstɑ:l/ *noun, pl* **-stalls** [*count*] *Brit* : NEWSSTAND

book•store /ˈbʊkˌstoɚ/ *noun, pl* **-stores** [*count*] *chiefly US* : a store that sells books

book token *noun, pl* ~ **-kens** [*count*] *Brit* : a card that can be used instead of money to pay for books : a gift certificate for buying books

book value *noun* [*noncount*] *finance* : the amount of money that something (such as a car) is officially worth based on its age, style, condition, etc. ▪ I paid $4,100 for the car four years ago, but its *book value* is now under $500.

book•worm /ˈbʊkˌwɚm/ *noun, pl* **-worms** [*count*] : a person who likes to read books and who spends a lot of time reading and studying ▪ She was always a *bookworm* when she was a kid.

[1]boom /ˈbu:m/ *verb* **booms**; **boomed**; **boom•ing**

1 a [*no obj*] : to make a deep and loud sound ▪ the sound of the bass drum *booming* ▪ His voice *boomed* out across the congregation. **b** [+ *obj*] : to say (something) in a deep and loud voice ▪ She *boomed* commands from the stern of the ship. ▪ "What's going on here?" he *boomed*.

2 [*no obj*] *of a business or industry* : to grow or expand suddenly ▪ Housing construction has *boomed* in the past year. ▪ Last year we almost had to close the store, but now business is *booming*.

[2]boom *noun, pl* **booms** [*count*]

1 : a deep and loud sound or cry ▪ the *boom* of a gun ▪ thunderous *booms* ▪ the rhythmic *boom* of the waves — often used as an interjection to indicate that something has happened suddenly ▪ The dance club was empty and then—*boom*!—a hundred people were there. — see also SONIC BOOM

2 : a rapid increase in growth or economic success ▪ the population *boom* ▪ the city's *boom* years : a rapid growth of business ▪ a *boom* in tourism = a tourism *boom* ▪ Housing costs have skyrocketed since the real estate *boom*. ▪ a *boom* economy [=an economy experiencing a boom] — see also BABY BOOM, BOOMTOWN

– compare [3]BOOM

[3]boom *noun, pl* **booms** [*count*]

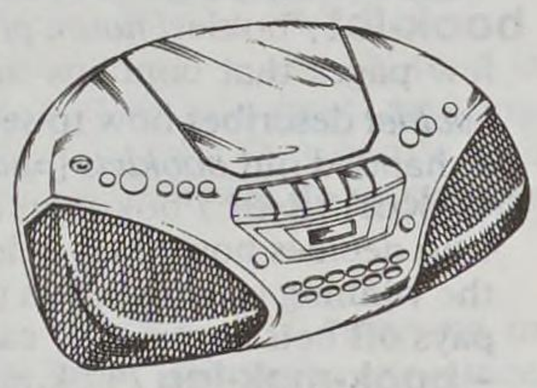
1 : a long pole attached to the bottom of a sailboat's sail

2 : a long pole used to hold a microphone in position from a distance

3 : a floating barrier used on a river, lake, or harbor to catch floating objects, to keep boats from entering, or to prevent an oil spill from spreading ▪ Large *booms* were brought in to help contain the oil spill.

– compare [2]BOOM

boom box *noun, pl* ~ **boxes** [*count*] : a large portable radio and often tape deck or CD player with two attached speakers



boom box

boom•er /ˈbu:mɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : a person born during a period of time when many babies were born : a person born during a baby boom ▪ a television program that is popular among *boomers* [=*baby boomers*; people who were born during the baby boom after World War II]

[1]boo•mer•ang /ˈbu:məˌræŋ/ *noun, pl* **-angs** [*count*] : a curved, flat, wooden tool that can be thrown in such a way that it returns to the thrower ✧ *Boomerangs* were invented in Australia thousands of years ago and were originally used for hunting.



boomerangs

[2]boomerang *verb* **-angs**; **-anged**; **-ang•ing** [*no obj*] : to have an effect that is the opposite of the desired or expected effect : BACKFIRE ▪ We thought that bringing the issue up would lessen tension, but that plan *boomeranged*. [=tension has increased] ▪ His attempt to discredit his opponent *boomeranged* [=it affected him instead of his opponent] when people began questioning his motives.

boom•ing /ˈbu:mɪŋ/ *adj*

1 : growing or expanding very quickly ▪ *booming* car sales ▪ We're not benefiting from the country's *booming* economy.

2 : loud and low : having a low rumbling sound ▪ Suddenly the children heard Grandpa's *booming* voice demanding that they get down from the roof.

3 : very forceful or powerful ▪ a tennis player with a *booming* serve

boom•let /ˈbu:mlət/ *noun, pl* **-lets** [*count*] : a sudden and usually brief increase in business activity : a small boom ▪ A few years ago, the town enjoyed a nice *boomlet*, but since then times have been tough.

boom•town /ˈbu:mˌtaʊn/ *noun, pl* **-towns** [*count*] : a town that experiences a sudden growth in business and population : a booming town ▪ a former *boomtown*

boon /ˈbu:n/ *noun, pl* **boons** [*count*] : something pleasant or helpful : a benefit or advantage — usually singular ▪ What at first looks like an inconvenience can be a *boon*. — usually + *for* or *to* ▪ The new tax cut is a *boon for* homeowners. ▪ Reliable daycare is a *boon to* working parents.

boon companion *noun, pl* ~ **-ions** [*count*] *literary* : a close friend

boon•docks /ˈbu:nˌdɑ:ks/ *noun*

the boondocks *US, informal* : an area that is not close to any towns or cities ▪ She grew up in *the boondocks* so city life came as a real shock to her.

boon•dog•gle /ˈbu:nˌdɑ:gəl/ *noun, pl* **-dog•gles** [*count*] *US* : an expensive and wasteful project usually paid for with public money ▪ Critics say the dam is a complete *boondoggle*—over budget, behind schedule, and unnecessary.

boon•ies /ˈbu:niz/ *noun*

the boonies *US, informal* : BOONDOCKS ▪ The school is way out in *the boonies*.

boor /ˈbuɚ/ *noun, pl* **boors** [*count*] : a rude and rough person ▪ I can't invite a *boor* like him to dinner! He'd offend the other guests.

> Do not confuse *boor* with *bore*.

– **boor•ish** /ˈburɪʃ/ *adj* ▪ *boorish* [=*rude, crude*] behavior ▪ a *boorish* tyrant – **boor•ish•ly** *adv* ▪ behaving *boorishly* – **boor•ish•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

[1]boost /ˈbu:st/ *verb* **boosts**; **boost•ed**; **boost•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to increase the force, power, or amount of (something) ▪ The farm has *boosted* [=*increased*] wheat production by 25 percent. ▪ *boost* [=*raise*] prices ▪ The article discusses a number of ways people can *boost* [=*strengthen*] their immune systems. ▪ The company needs to find ways to *boost* [=*improve*] morale.

2 : to push or shove (something or someone) up from below ▪ She *boosted* the boy onto his father's shoulders. — sometimes used figuratively ▪ His work on the high-profile lawsuit has *boosted* him into the political arena.

[2]boost *noun, pl* **boosts** [*count*]

1 : an increase in amount ▪ a *boost* in wheat production ▪ a *boost* in sales ▪ Exercise can sometimes provide a *boost* of energy. ▪ After layoffs at the company, employees needed a *boost* in morale.

2 : help or encouragement ▪ One company's innovation has proven to be a *boost* to the entire industry.

3 : a push upward ▪ Give the boy a *boost* onto the stage, will you?

boost•er /ˈbu:stɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]

1 : something that boosts someone or something: such as **a** : an action or substance that makes something stronger or more effective ▪ These exercises are real metabolism *boosters*. ▪ The herb is said to be an immune *booster*. [=something that strengthens a person's immunity to illness] **b** : something that helps or encourages someone or something ▪ Music is my favorite mood *booster*. ▪ A sincere compliment can be a true confidence *booster*. **c** : BOOSTER SHOT

2 *US* : someone who supports an idea or organization ▪ The university has a number of wealthy *boosters* who contribute generously each year. ▪ the football team's *boosters*

3 : part of a rocket that provides force for the launch and the first part of the flight ▪ a new design for rocket *boosters* – see also BOOSTER SEAT

boost•er•ism /ˈbu:stɚˌɪzəm/ *noun* [*noncount*] *US* : enthusiastic and usually excessive support for something or someone ▪ Her article asserts that hometown *boosterism* keeps people from assessing the crime problem accurately. ▪ nationalistic *boosterism*

booster seat *noun, pl* ~ **seats** [*count*] : a high seat that raises a child to a higher position at a table, in a car, etc. — called also *booster chair*, (*Brit*) *booster cushion*

booster shot *noun, pl* ~ **shots** [*count*] *chiefly US* : an extra amount of a substance (called a vaccine) that is injected with a needle into a person or animal to help protect against a particular disease ▪ He had to get two *booster shots* at his latest checkup. ▪ a tetanus *booster shot* — called also *booster*

[1]boot /ˈbu:t/ *noun, pl* **boots**

1 [*count*] : a covering usually of leather or rubber for the entire foot and the lower part of the leg ▪ You'll need a pair of warm *boots* for winter. ▪ It's been snowing, so you'd better wear your *boots*. ▪ hiking *boots* [=boots worn for hiking] ▪ riding *boots* [=boots worn for horseback riding] — see picture at SHOE; see also BOOTED, COWBOY BOOT, HOBNAIL BOOT, SKI BOOT

2 [*count*] : a forceful kick with the foot ▪ She gave the ball a *boot*, and it landed on the other side of the field.

3 ***the boot*** *informal* : a sudden dismissal from a job ▪ He ***got the boot*** [=*got fired*] for talking to the press about company secrets. ▪ I heard they ***gave her the boot***. [=they fired her; they told her she could no longer work for them]

4 [*count*] *Brit* : the trunk of a car

5 [*count*] *US* : DENVER BOOT

as tough as old boots see [1]TOUGH

lick someone's boots see [1]LICK

the boot is on the other foot see [1]FOOT

to boot : BESIDES, ALSO ▪ He's smart, funny, and handsome *to boot*.

too big for your boots see [1]BIG

to put the boot in *Brit, informal* **1** : to treat someone in a cruel or critical way **2** : to kick someone again and again

– see also BOSSY-BOOTS

[2]boot *verb* **boots; boot•ed; boot•ing**

1 [+ *obj*] : to kick (something) forcefully ▪ She *booted* the ball across the field.

2 [+ *obj*] *informal* **a** : to force (someone) to leave a place or situation ▪ He left public service after voters *booted* him from the mayor's office. [=he chose not to work for the government after he was not reelected as mayor] ▪ Any players who start a fight will get *booted* from the game. — often + *out* ▪ His wife *booted* him *out*. [=his wife made him leave their home] ▪ He got *booted out* of office in the last election. **b** : to dismiss (someone) suddenly from a job ▪ She got *booted* [=*fired*] in May and has been looking for work ever since.

3 : to start a computer [*no obj*] The new computer *boots* much more quickly than the old one did. — often + *up* ▪ Did you *boot up* yet? [+ *obj*] You don't need all these applications to open every time you *boot* your computer. — often + *up* ▪ She *booted up* the computer. — see also REBOOT

4 [+ *obj*] *US* : to lock a special device (called a Denver boot) onto one of the wheels of (a car) so that the car cannot be moved ▪ His car was *booted* (by the police).

boot camp *noun, pl* ~ **camps** [*count*] *US*

1 : a camp where people who have recently joined the U.S. Army, Navy, or Marine Corps receive their basic training

2 : a short but very difficult training program : a program or situation that helps people become much better at doing something in a short period of time ▪ business *boot camp* ▪ *boot camp* for artists

boot•ed /ˈbu:təd/ *adj* : wearing boots ▪ She shoved her *booted* feet under the table.

bootee *chiefly Brit spelling of* BOOTIE

booth /ˈbu:θ, *Brit* ˈbu:ð/ *noun, pl* **booths** /ˈbu:ðz/ [*count*]

1 : a partially enclosed area or a small and usually temporary building where things are sold or displayed or services are provided ▪ A local sheep farmer has a *booth* at the county fair and is selling wool yarn. ▪ We got hot dogs at one of the food *booths*. ▪ Someone at the ***information booth*** [=a booth at which general information about a place or event is provided] will be able to tell you where to find a bathroom.

2 a : a small area that is enclosed in order to provide privacy for one person ▪ a voting *booth* — see also PHONE BOOTH, PHOTO BOOTH, POLLING BOOTH **b** : an enclosed area for some kinds of workers that provides shelter and keeps them separated from the public ▪ a ticket *booth* ▪ Traffic slowed as we approached the ***toll booth***. [=a booth at which drivers pay a fee for using a particular road or bridge] ▪ Our seats at the baseball game were next to the ***broadcast booth***. [=a booth from which a radio broadcast is made]

3 *chiefly US* : a table in a restaurant between benches with high backs ▪ They sat at/in a *booth* next to the window.

boo•tie *or chiefly Brit* **boo•tee** /ˈbu:ti/ *noun, pl* **boo•ties** *or* **boo•tees** [*count*]

1 : a short and thick sock for a baby

2 : a sock, slipper, or boot that covers the foot and ankle

3 : [2]BOOTY

[1]boot•leg /ˈbu:tˌlɛg/ *verb* **-legs; -legged; -leg•ging** [+ *obj*]

1 : to illegally copy (a video, CD, etc.) or illegally record (a live performance) ▪ He *bootlegged* the show and gave copies to several friends. ▪ *bootleg* a DVD ▪ a *bootlegged* [=*pirated*] version of the movie

2 : to make or sell (alcoholic liquor) illegally ▪ *bootlegging* moonshine

– **boot•leg•ger** *noun, pl* **-gers** [*count*] ▪ a famous *bootlegger* during the Prohibition period

[2]bootleg *noun, pl* **-legs**

1 [*count*] : an illegal copy of a video, CD, etc., or an illegal recording of a live performance ▪ She was arrested for selling *bootlegs* online. — often used before another noun ▪ a *bootleg* album/DVD ▪ selling *bootleg* copies of the concert

2 [*noncount*] : alcohol that is made or sold illegally — usually used before another noun ▪ *bootleg* whiskey/bourbon

boot•lick•er /ˈbu:tˌlɪkɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] *informal* + *disapproving* : a person who praises, helps, or obeys someone in order to gain favors or advantages — see also *lick someone's boots* at [1]LICK

– **boot•lick•ing** /ˈbu:tˌlɪkɪŋ/ *adj* ▪ a *bootlicking* politician

– **bootlicking** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ His *bootlicking* [=*brown-nosing*] disgusts me.

boot•straps /ˈbu:tˌstræps/ *noun*

by your own bootstraps : without help from other people : as a result of your own hard work ▪ Despite many obstacles, she has pulled herself up *by her own bootstraps*.

[1]boo•ty /ˈbu:ti/ *noun* [*noncount*]

1 : money or goods stolen or taken in war ▪ war *booty* [=*loot, plunder, spoils*]

2 : a valuable gain or prize ▪ His *booty* from the auction included several rare antiques.

– compare [2]BOOTY

[2]booty *also* **boo•tie** /ˈbu:ti/ *noun, pl* **boo•ties** [*count*] *US slang* : BUTTOCKS ▪ She was shaking her *booty*. — compare [1]BOOTY

[1]booze /ˈbu:z/ *noun* [*noncount*] *informal* : alcoholic drinks ▪ We bought some chips and *booze* for the party.

[2]booze *verb* **booz•es; boozed; booz•ing** *informal* : to drink a lot of alcohol [*no obj*] He was out *boozing* with his friends. [+ *obj*] They ***boozed it up*** [=got drunk] the night before the wedding.

booz•er /ˈbu:zɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] *informal*

1 : a person who drinks a lot of alcohol ▪ an unapologetic *boozer*

2 *Brit* : PUB ▪ They went into the *boozer* for a beer.

[1]bop /ˈbɑ:p/ *verb* **bops; bopped; bop•ping** [+ *obj*] : to hit (someone or something) especially in a playful way ▪ She *bopped* him on the head. — compare [4]BOP

[2]bop *noun, pl* **bops** [*count*] : a hit that is not very forceful ▪ She gave him a playful *bop* on the head. — compare [3]BOP

[3]bop *noun, pl* **bops**

1 [*noncount*] : a kind of jazz that uses complex melodies and harmonies and that often has a very quick tempo — called also *bebop*

2 [*count*] *Brit, informal* : DANCE ▪ Are you up for a *bop*? [=would you like to dance?] They're playing my favorite song.

– compare [2]BOP

[4]bop *verb* **bops; bopped; bopping** [*no obj*] *informal*

1 : to go for only a short time ▪ She'll be back in a few minutes. She just *bopped* [=*popped*] over to the store.

2 *US* : to walk or move like a person who is dancing to lively music ▪ He was *bopping* down the street.

3 *Brit, informal* : to dance to popular music ▪ I think we're going to ***go bopping*** tonight. Would you like to join us?

– compare [1]BOP

bor•age /ˈborɪʤ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a type of European plant that has blue flowers and hairy leaves ✧ The leaves of this plant are used as medicine and in salads.

bo•rax /ˈboɚˌæks/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a mineral that is used especially for cleaning things

Bor•deaux /boɚˈdoʊ/ *noun, pl* **Bordeaux** [*count, noncount*] : a red or white wine from the Bordeaux region of France

bor•del•lo /boɚˈdɛloʊ/ *noun, pl* **-los** [*count*] *somewhat literary* : a building in which prostitutes are available : BROTHEL

[1]bor•der /ˈboɚdɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ders**

1 a [*count*] : a line separating one country or state from another ▪ the *border* between Poland and Slovenia ▪ He grew up in Malaysia, near the Indonesian *border*. ▪ the *border* of Pennsylvania ▪ the Florida–Georgia *border* ▪ the contested northern *border* — often used before another noun ▪ *border* guards ▪ a *border* dispute ▪ *border* crossings **b** [*count*] : a

boundary between places • They live just beyond the western *border* of the park. • the *border* of the Sahara **c** ***the border*** : a specific border • They've lived in southern Texas for years, but have never been south of *the border*. [=the U.S. border with Mexico] • She's from northern Montana, near *the border*. [=the U.S. border with Canada] • We crossed *the border* (into France) at Gavarnie.

2 [*count*] : a decorative design along the edge of something (such as a rug or wallpaper) • The quilt is quite plain except for its colorful *border*. • a broad red *border* on each plate • the photograph's white *border*

3 [*count*] : a narrow bed of plants along the edge of a garden or walk • He planted pansies in the *border*. • *border* plants

²border *verb* **-ders**; **-dered**; **-der·ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to be next to (a country, state, or area) : to share a border with (a country, state, or area) • Slovenia *borders* Poland. • Their property *borders* the park.

2 : to form a border of (something) : to define the edge of (something) • Tall trees *border* the avenue. • Two rivers *border* the city. — usually used as *(be) bordered* • The neighborhood *is bordered* by Main Street on the north and the river on the south. • streets *bordered* by oak trees

3 : to put a border on (something) — usually used as *(be) bordered* • The scarf *is bordered* with gold stitching.

border on [*phrasal verb*] ***border on (something)*** **1** : to have a border on (something) : to lie on a boundary of (something) • The area my ancestors come from *borders on* the Atacama Desert. **2** : to be very like (something) : to come very close to being (something) • The play's dialog *borders on* [=*verges on*] the ridiculous. • an enthusiasm *bordering on* fanaticism

bor·der·land /'boɚdɚˌlænd/ *noun, pl* **-lands** [*count*]

1 : the land on either side of a border between countries • the Slovenian-Polish *borderlands* • a *borderland* province [=a province that is in a borderland]

2 : an unclear state or condition that is between two things and is like each of them in some ways • in the *borderland* between sleeping and waking • He describes adolescence as the tumultuous *borderlands* between childhood and adulthood.

¹bor·der·line /'boɚdɚˌlaɪn/ *adj*

1 : having some but not all characteristics of something • In *borderline* cases like these, the best course of action is difficult to determine. • Two candidates for the job seem very good, and three others are *borderline*. [=three may or may not be suitable for the job]

2 : not quite as severe as what is usual or expected • As a *borderline* diabetic, Lara is able to control her blood sugar levels solely through diet. • *borderline* alcoholics

3 : existing at or near a border • a *borderline* town

²borderline *noun, pl* **-lines** [*count*] : the point at which one thing changes to another thing : the point *between* two different things • New technology in hearing aids makes the *borderline* [=*distinction*] *between* the deaf and hearing worlds less clear. • the *borderline between* fact and fiction

³borderline *adv* : almost or nearly • The movie is only *borderline* funny. • She was *borderline* suicidal.

¹bore /'boɚ/ *verb* **bores**; **bored**; **boring** [+ *obj*] : to make (someone) tired and annoyed by being uninteresting or too much the same • He was *bored* by the lecture. = The lecture *bored* him. • Good writers will avoid *boring* their readers at any cost. • Eventually she got *bored* with the party and left. ✧ Someone or something that ***bores you stiff*** or ***bores you to death*** or ***bores you to tears*** is extremely boring. • I was *bored stiff* during the movie. • I was *bored to death* the whole time he was talking. • He *bores* us all *to tears* by telling the same stories over and over again. — compare ³BORE

– **bored** *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] • a few *bored* teenagers • I've never been so *bored*.

²bore *noun, pl* **bores** [*count*] : an uninteresting person or thing : a person or thing that makes people feel tired and annoyed • They're a bunch of *bores*! • The lecture was a total *bore*. — compare ⁴BORE, ⁵BORE

Do not confuse *bore* with *boor*.

³bore *verb* **bores**; **bored**; **bor·ing**

1 : to make (a hole, tunnel, etc.) in something with a tool or by digging [+ *obj*] My drill isn't powerful enough to *bore* a hole through that post. • She designs machines that are used to *bore* tunnels. [*no obj*] Along the trunk of the tree are holes where insects have *bored* into the tree. • *boring* deep into the earth — often used figuratively • The teacher's eyes *bored* into me. [=the teacher stared at me]

2 [*no obj*] : to move forward steadily • We *bored* through the crowd and finally got to the gate.

– compare ¹BORE

⁴bore *noun, pl* **bores** [*count*]

1 : a hole made by boring — called also *borehole*

2 a : the space inside a gun barrel that is shaped like a tube **b** : the width of the inside part of a gun barrel • a .22 *bore* revolver

– compare ²BORE, ⁵BORE

⁵bore *noun, pl* **bores** [*count*] : a giant wave that rushes into a river or bay • a tidal *bore* — compare ²BORE, ⁴BORE

⁶bore *past tense of* ²BEAR

bore·dom /'boɚdəm/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the state of being bored • On days when few customers came to shop, Bob felt overwhelmed by *boredom*. • the *boredom* of a long car trip

bore·hole /'boɚˌhoʊl/ *noun, pl* **-holes** [*count*] : ⁴BORE 1; *especially* : a hole dug into the earth in order to find water or oil

bor·er /'borɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : an insect that digs holes in the woody parts of plants

bor·ing /'borɪŋ/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : dull and uninteresting : causing boredom • a *boring* job/routine • I find her books totally *boring*.

born /'boɚn/ *adj*

1 *not used before a noun* : brought into life by the process of birth • She was *born* in a hospital. • He was *born* on a farm. • She was *born* in Nigeria in 1911. • The baby was *born* on July 31st. • Their second son was *born* prematurely. — see also FIRSTBORN, NEWBORN

2 : having certain qualities or characteristics from the time of birth • *born* blind/deaf • Both twins were *born* healthy. • The author Mark Twain was *born* Samuel Clemens. [=was named Samuel Clemens at birth] • She's a *born* teacher/leader. [=she was born with the qualities that make someone a teacher/leader] ✧ If you were ***born to do*** something or ***born to be*** something, you have natural qualities or talents that make you perfectly suited to do or be something. • She was *born to teach*. = She was *born to be* a teacher.

3 *not used before a noun* — used to describe the place where someone was born • He's American *born*. [=he was born in America] • He's Mexican ***born and bred***. = He was *born and bred* in Mexico. [=his birth and childhood took place in Mexico] — often used in combination • Maine-*born*

4 *not used before a noun* — used to describe the social conditions or situations that exist when people are born • Some are *born* in slavery, others *born* merely poor. • She was ***born to*** riches/wealth. = She was ***born into*** a rich/wealthy family. — see also HIGHBORN

5 *not used before a noun* : brought into existence • Her dream of owning farm was *born* when she visited the countryside as a child. • The wine is *born* [=*created*] from the union of two very different grapes. • a mentality *born* in the age of computers • Their relationship was ***born of necessity*** [=established because it was necessary in some way], but it has developed into a true and lasting friendship. • Church leaders assert that the recent unrest in the city is ***born out of*** [=has occurred because of] years of neglect of the city's poor neighborhoods.

born too late ✧ Someone who is said to be *born too late* seems to be better suited for life in an earlier time period. • John prefers early jazz music over the modern stuff. I guess he was *born too late*.

born with a silver spoon in your mouth ✧ If you were *born with a silver spoon in your mouth*, you were born into a very wealthy family.

in all your born days *informal + somewhat old-fashioned* : in your entire life — used to express how unexpected or unusual something is • I never saw anything like it *in all my born days*.

there's one born every minute *or* ***there's a sucker born every minute*** *informal* — used to say that there are many people in the world who are foolish and can be easily deceived

to the manner born see MANNER

to the manor born see MANOR

wasn't born yesterday ✧ Someone who *wasn't born yesterday* is unlikely to believe something that is not true or to trust someone who is not trustworthy. • He said he'd pay me back, but I'll believe it when I see it. I *wasn't born yesterday*.

born–again /ˌboɚnə'gɛn/ *adj*

1 : having a new or stronger belief in the Christian religion •

The *born-again* actor often talks about his faith during interviews. ▪ She's *born-again* now. ▪ a ***born-again Christian***
2 : newly interested in and enthusiastic about something and eager to make other people think the way you do ▪ a *born-again* fitness buff

[1]borne *past participle of* [2]BEAR

[2]borne /ˈboən/ *adj* : carried by : spread by — used in combination ▪ water*borne* ▪ It's an air*borne* virus.

bor•ough /ˈbɚroʊ/ *noun, pl* **-oughs** [*count*]
1 : a village, town, or part of a large city that has its own government ✧ Boroughs are found in a number of English-speaking countries. They are much more common in Great Britain than in the U.S. ▪ the London *borough* of Brent
2 : one of the five main sections of New York City ▪ the *borough* of Brooklyn

bor•row /ˈbɑroʊ/ *verb* **-rows**; **-rowed**; **-row•ing**
1 [+ *obj*] **a** : to take and use (something that belongs to someone else) for a period of time before returning it ▪ Can I *borrow* your camera? [=will you lend me your camera] ▪ The twins often *borrow* each other's clothes. ▪ I'm *borrowing* a friend's car for the weekend. ▪ He *borrowed* the book from the library. **b** : to take and use up (something) with the promise to give back something of equal value ▪ Will you see if we can *borrow* a cup of sugar from the neighbors? ▪ She *borrowed* $20 from me. ✧ When people borrow money from a bank they pay back the same amount over a number of months or years plus an added amount that is called *interest*. ▪ He *borrowed* money from the bank to buy the car.
2 : to use (an idea, saying, etc.) that was thought up by someone else [+ *obj*] The speech was peppered with phrases *borrowed* from Winston Churchill. ▪ She *borrowed* the technique from local artisans. ▪ The company is ***borrowing a page from*** [=using a technique or idea first used by] its largest competitor. [*no obj*] He *borrows* heavily [=includes many ideas] from other philosophers in the book.
3 [+ *obj*] : to use (a word or phrase from another language) in a language ▪ The English word "entrepreneur" was *borrowed* from (the) French.
4 [+ *obj*] *in subtracting from a number with two or more digits* : to take 1 from a digit and add it as 10 to the digit in the next lower place
beg, borrow, or/and steal see BEG
be living on borrowed time : to continue to be alive after you were expected to die ▪ After his heart attack, my grandfather always felt that he was *living on borrowed time*.
– **bor•row•er** /ˈbɑrəwɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] ▪ Each *borrower's* payments will vary according to the terms of the loan. ▪ the library's *borrowers* [=people who borrow books from the library]

bor•row•ing /ˈbɑrəwɪŋ/ *noun, pl* **-ings**
1 [*count*] : something that is borrowed; *especially* : a word or phrase from one language that is used in another language ▪ He's compiling a list of Japanese *borrowings* in English.
2 [*noncount*] : the act of borrowing something ▪ Students must have their own pencils. *Borrowing* is not allowed.; *especially* : the act of borrowing money ▪ Economists predict that there will be increases in government *borrowing*.

borscht /ˈboɚʃt/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a soup made mainly of beets

Bor•stal /ˈboɚstl̩/ *noun, pl* **-stals** *Brit* : a special prison used for people who are too young to go to a regular prison [*noncount*] She was sent to *Borstal* for stealing cars. [*count*] He spent a year in a *Borstal*. ✧ The Borstal system is no longer in use.

bosh /ˈbɑːʃ/ *noun* [*noncount*] *Brit, informal + old-fashioned* : foolish words or ideas : NONSENSE ▪ Don't believe a word she says—it's all *bosh*. — often used like an interjection ▪ *Bosh*! That's absurd!

[1]bos•om /ˈbʊzəm/ *noun, pl* **-oms**
1 [*count*] **a** : a person's chest ▪ He clutched the flowers to his *bosom*. **b** : a person's chest when it is thought of as the place where secret thoughts and feelings are kept ▪ He never spoke of his childhood as an orphan, but kept dark memories of those days in his *bosom*.
2 [*count*] *somewhat old-fashioned* **a** : a woman's breasts ▪ her large *bosom* **b** : one of a woman's breasts ▪ a woman's *bosoms*
3 [*singular*] : the part of a piece of clothing that covers the chest ▪ The shirt has a plain color and ruffles at the *bosom*.
4 [*singular*] : a safe and comfortable place or situation — usually + *of* ▪ the *bosom of* your family ▪ She found comfort in the *bosom of* the Church.

[2]bosom *adj, always used before a noun* : very close : very dear ▪ They are *bosom* friends/buddies.

bos•omy /ˈbʊzəmi/ *adj, informal* : having large breasts ▪ a *bosomy* waitress

[1]boss /ˈbɑːs/ *noun, pl* **boss•es** [*count*]
1 : the person whose job is to tell other workers what to do ▪ Why don't you ask your *boss* for a raise? ▪ Company policy says that vacation time must be cleared with your *boss*. [=*supervisor*] ▪ my former *boss* ▪ Jane started her own business so that she could ***be her own boss***. [=have no boss except for herself] — see also PIT BOSS
2 : a person who has a lot of power in an organization ▪ a union *boss* ▪ mafia *bosses* ▪ the movie studio *boss* ▪ During the campaign, no one was willing to stand up to the ***party boss***. [=the person with the most power in a political party or one branch of a political party]
3 : the person who has more power or control in a relationship ▪ The two oldest children argued over who was *boss* for the entire hour their mother was out shopping. ▪ He wants to show them who's (the) *boss*. [=who's in charge]
– compare [4]BOSS

[2]boss *verb* **bosses**; **bossed**; **boss•ing** [+ *obj*] : to give orders to (someone) : to tell (someone) what to do — usually + *around* or (*Brit*) *about* ▪ I wish he wouldn't let his father *boss* him *around* like that. ▪ Don't *boss* me *around*!

[3]boss *adj, slang* : great or excellent ▪ a *boss* new rock band

[4]boss *noun, pl* **bosses** [*count*] : a round raised decoration on a ceiling or shield — compare [1]BOSS

bos•sa no•va /ˌbɑːsəˈnoʊvə/ *noun, pl* ~ **-vas**
1 [*noncount*] : a kind of music that is originally from Brazil
2 [*count*] : a dance performed to bossa nova music

bossy /ˈbɑːsi/ *adj* **boss•i•er**; **-est** *informal* : tending too often to tell people what to do : often giving orders in a way that people do not like ▪ His advice may be good, but he's much too *bossy*.
– **boss•i•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

bossy–boots /ˈbɑːsiˌbuːts/ *noun, pl* **bossy–boots** [*count*] *Brit, informal* : a person who often tells other people what to do : a bossy person ▪ Her mum is a real *bossy-boots*. — often used before another noun ▪ her *bossy-boots* mum

Bos•ton cream pie /ˈbɑːstən-/ *noun, pl* ~ **pies** [*count*] *US* : a round cake that is filled with a custard or cream filling and usually frosted with chocolate

Boston lettuce *noun* [*noncount*] *US* : a kind of soft lettuce that is often used in salads

bosun *variant spelling of* BOATSWAIN

bo•tan•i•cal /bəˈtænɪkəl/ *adj, always used before a noun*
1 : of or relating to plants or the study of plants ▪ *botanical* specimens
2 : made from or taken from plants ▪ *botanical* extracts
– **bo•tan•i•cal•ly** /bəˈtænɪkli/ *adv*

botanical garden *noun, pl* ~ **-dens** [*count*] : a large usually public garden where plants are grown in order to be studied — called also *bo•tan•ic garden* /bəˈtænɪk-/

bot•a•ny /ˈbɑːtəni/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a branch of science that deals with plant life ▪ She's studying *botany*. — often used before another noun ▪ the university's *botany* department ▪ She is taking a *botany* class.
– **bot•a•nist** /ˈbɑːtənɪst/ *noun, pl* **-ists** [*count*]

[1]botch /ˈbɑːʧ/ *verb* **botch•es**; **botched**; **botch•ing** [+ *obj*] : to do (something) badly : to ruin (something) because of carelessness or a lack of skill ▪ The store *botched* the order—I received only half the books I paid for. ▪ They clearly *botched* the investigation. ▪ a *botched* robbery/experiment — sometimes + *up* ▪ He really *botched up* [=*messed up*] the speech.

[2]botch *noun, pl* **botches** [*count*] : a bad job : a poorly done piece of work ▪ a *botch* job ▪ The plumbers ***made a botch of*** the pipes. [=the plumbers did a poor job with the pipes]

[1]both /ˈboʊθ/ *adj* — used to indicate that two things or people are being referred to rather than just one ▪ She put *both* feet in the stream. ▪ *Both* countries have agreed to the treaty. ▪ We went to *both* museums. ▪ I found *both* these articles to be very helpful. ▪ *both* his eyes ▪ *Both* actors have appeared on Broadway before.

[2]both *pronoun* : each one of two things or people ▪ I'd like *both*, please. ▪ There were two paintings for sale, and he bought (them) *both*. ▪ We *both* were tired. = We were *both* tired. = *Both* of us were tired. ▪ Arabic and French are *both* spoken there. ▪ He read *both* of the books. [=he read both books]

B

[3]both *conj* — used before two words or phrases connected with *and* to stress that each is included ▪ The show will be in *both* New York *and* London. ▪ She is *both* beautiful *and* charming. ▪ *Both* he *and* his wife play golf. ▪ This product can *both* clean *and* protect your floors.

[1]both•er /ˈbɑːðɚ/ *verb* **-ers; -ered; -er•ing**

1 [+ *obj*] : to cause (someone) to feel troubled, worried, or concerned ▪ He's so easygoing. Nothing seems to *bother* him. ▪ It didn't *bother* [=*trouble*] her in the least that she wasn't offered the job. ▪ It *bothers* [=*worries*] them that there's no hospital nearby. ▪ Something he said at the meeting has been *bothering* me. ✧ To ***not bother yourself about/with something*** or ***not bother your head about/with something*** is to not worry or be concerned about something. ▪ He decided he *wasn't* going to *bother himself about* the opinions of others. ▪ *Don't bother your head with* those questions right now.

2 [+ *obj*] : to annoy (someone) : to cause (someone) to feel annoyed ▪ It *bothers* [=*irks*] her when people throw trash on the ground. ▪ He's *bothered* [=*annoyed*] by drivers who don't use their turn signals. ▪ The entire car trip was filled with complaints like, "Mom, David keeps *bothering* me!" and "Will you tell him to quit *bothering* me?"

3 [*no obj*] **a** : to take the time to do something : to make an effort to do something ▪ Mother used to cook elaborate dinners, but with only herself to cook for, she doesn't *bother* anymore. ▪ "Should I call later?" "No, don't *bother*." — often followed by *to* + *verb* or by *-ing verb* ▪ Nobody *bothered* [=*took the trouble*] *to tell* me the school would be closed today. ▪ He never *bothered to explain* what happened. ▪ Don't *bother asking* him about it. He won't tell you anything. ▪ Why *bother talking* if no one is listening? ✧ If you ***can't be bothered*** to do something, you do not want to make an effort to do it or are not interested in doing it. ▪ The trick is somewhat dangerous, so if you *can't be bothered* to do it right, then don't even attempt it. ▪ I asked her to send a picture, but apparently she just *couldn't be bothered* (to send one). **b** : to be concerned *with* or *about* something ▪ I'm not going to *bother with* the details. ▪ We were told not to *bother about* the early data [=not to consider or use early data] when writing the report.

4 [+ *obj*] : to interrupt or talk to (someone who is working or who wants to be alone) ▪ Don't *bother* your mother right now. She's very tired. ▪ I hate to *bother* [=*trouble*] you, but I was wondering if you could help me with something. ▪ Sorry to *bother* [=*inconvenience*] you. I just had a quick question.

5 [+ *obj*] **a** : to make (someone) feel sick or uncomfortable ▪ He said his stomach was *bothering* him. ▪ Her arthritis has been *bothering* her. **b** : to cause a painful or unpleasant feeling in (part of someone's body) ▪ The camera strap *bothers* my shoulder. ▪ The bright light *bothered* her eyes.

6 *chiefly Brit, somewhat old-fashioned* — used as an interjection to express annoyance or frustration ▪ *Bother* this car! It won't start! ▪ Oh, *bother* (it). I forgot my keys.

[2]bother *noun*

1 [*singular*] : someone or something that is annoying or that causes trouble ▪ Replacing the windows could be more of a *bother* than it's worth. ▪ Sorry to be such a *bother* [=*nuisance*], but I was wondering if you could help me with something. ▪ I know what a *bother* driving into the city can be this time of day.

2 [*noncount*] : trouble or difficulty : INCONVENIENCE ▪ "Sorry to bother you." "That's okay, it's no *bother* at all." ▪ I considered replacing that part of the floor but decided it wasn't worth the *bother*. ▪ He doesn't want the *bother* of filling out all those forms again. ▪ Will you mail this for me? It will save me the *bother* of going to the post office.

both•er•ation /ˌbɑːðəˈreɪʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** [*count*] *old-fashioned* : something that is annoying : something that bothers you ▪ I hadn't realized what a *botheration* putting up a tent in the dark could be! — sometimes used as an interjection ▪ Oh *botheration*. The radio isn't working again.

both•er•some /ˈbɑːðɚsəm/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : causing trouble or difficulty ▪ The injury isn't too bad. It's more *bothersome* [=*troublesome*] than painful.

[1]bot•tle /ˈbɑːtl̩/ *noun, pl* **bot•tles**

1 [*count*] **a** : a glass or plastic container that has a narrow neck and usually has no handle ✧ Bottles are usually used to store liquid or tablets. ▪ Shall I open another *bottle* of wine? ▪ There's a *bottle* of aspirin in the cabinet. ▪ empty soda *bottles* ▪ She kept a *bottle* [=a bottle of some strong alcoholic drink like whiskey] tucked away in the coat closet. ▪ Be sure to bring a ***water bottle*** [=bottle containing water] on your hike. ▪ Would you get me the ***bottle opener*** [=a tool used to remove metal tops from some bottles], please? **b** : the amount contained in a bottle ▪ We drank a *bottle* of wine.

2 ***the bottle*** : alcoholic drink ▪ He says he's lost too many years to *the bottle*, and that he's giving up alcohol. ▪ Her struggles with *the bottle* affected her entire family. ▪ I hear he's ***(gone) off the bottle***. [=stopped drinking alcohol] ▪ After his divorce he ***took to the bottle***. [=began to drink a lot of alcohol] ▪ When she gets depressed she ***hits the bottle***. [=begins drinking a lot of alcohol]

3 [*count*] : a special bottle for feeding babies that contains milk or a drink which contains milk ▪ Has the baby finished her *bottle* yet? ▪ (*US*) a baby *bottle* = (*Brit*) a baby's *bottle* ▪ raised on a *bottle* instead of breast milk — see also BOTTLE-FEED

4 [*noncount*] *Brit slang* : courage or strength of spirit ▪ I don't think he's got *bottle* [=*guts*] enough to confront them.

bring your own bottle (*US*) *or Brit* ***bring a bottle*** — used to tell the people who are invited to a party that they should bring their own alcoholic drinks

catch/capture lightning in a bottle see [1]LIGHTNING

– bot•tle•ful /ˈbɑːtl̩ˌfʊl/ *noun* [*singular*] ▪ a *bottleful* of water

[2]bottle *verb* **bottles; bot•tled; bot•tling** [+ *obj*]

1 : to put (something) into a bottle so that it can be sold or so that it is easier to use ▪ The restaurant *bottles* its own ginger ale. ▪ Near the top of the mountain, the climbers relied on *bottled* oxygen to breathe. ▪ *bottled* water ▪ ***bottled gas*** [=gas that is stored in containers for people to use in heating their homes or for cooking]

2 *Brit* : to put (fruit or vegetables) in a jar using a special procedure that preserves them ▪ At the end of summer we *bottle* [=(*US*) *can, preserve, put up*] tomatoes from the garden.

bottle out [*phrasal verb*] *Brit slang* : to become too afraid to do something : to lose your nerve ▪ I was going to ask him but then I *bottled out*. [=*chickened out*]

bottle up [*phrasal verb*] ***bottle (something) up*** *or* ***bottle up (something)*** : to keep (a feeling or emotion) inside of you instead of expressing it : to hide (a feeling or emotion) ▪ She's kept her feelings about the accident *bottled up* for too long. ▪ I know he's angry, but he *bottles* it *up* inside instead of talking to someone about it.

– bot•tler *noun, pl* **bot•tlers** [*count*] ▪ soft drink *bottlers* ▪ the region's best known wine *bottler*

bottle bank *noun, pl* ~ **banks** [*count*] *Brit* : a large container that people put empty bottles in so that the glass or plastic the bottles are made from can be used again

bottle blond *noun, pl* ~ **blonds** [*count*] : a person whose hair has been made blond by using chemicals

bot•tle–feed /ˈbɑːtl̩ˌfiːd/ *verb* **-feeds; -fed; -feed•ing** [+ *obj*] : to feed (a baby or young animal) with a bottle instead of from its mother's breast ▪ All her children were *bottle-fed*. ▪ We had to *bottle-feed* the kitten. — compare BREAST-FEED

bottle green *noun* [*noncount*] : a green color ✧ In the U.S., bottle green is usually a medium green color. In British English, it is usually a dark green color.

– bottle–green *adj*

bot•tle•neck /ˈbɑːtl̩ˌnɛk/ *noun, pl* **-necks** [*count*]

1 : a section of road or highway where the traffic moves very slowly ▪ Bridge construction has created a *bottleneck* on the southern part of Main Street.

2 : something that slows down a process ▪ All decisions must be approved by the committee, and this is where the company runs into *bottlenecks*.

bot•tle•nose dolphin /ˈbɑːtl̩ˌnoʊz-/ *noun, pl* ~ **-phins** [*count*] : a small gray whale that has a long nose — called also *bottle-nosed dolphin*

[1]bot•tom /ˈbɑːtəm/ *noun, pl* **-toms**

1 a [*count*] : the lowest part, point, or level of something — usually singular ▪ He's waiting at the *bottom* of the stairs. ▪ Our house is at the *bottom* of the hill. ▪ The top of the wall is painted and the *bottom* is covered in wood paneling. ▪ the *bottom* of the page/screen/list ▪ Please fill out this form and sign your name at the *bottom*. **b** [*count*] : the part of something that is below or under the other parts — usually singular ▪ the ship's *bottom* [=*underside*] ▪ The bowl was signed on the *bottom* [=*base*] by the artist. ▪ There's a small cut on the *bottom* [=*sole*] of his foot. **c** [*count*] : the lowest point or surface inside something : the part of something hollow that is furthest from the top — usually singular ▪ I think there is still a little sugar left in the *bottom* of the box/container. ▪ The pool is so deep I could not touch the *bottom*. ▪ One of

the drawers has a ***false bottom***. [=a panel that looks like the drawer's bottom but that can be removed to expose more space] **d** [*singular*] *chiefly Brit* : the part of something that is furthest away ▪ We sailed to the *bottom* of the bay. ▪ the *bottom* of the garden

2 [*count*] : the part of the body on which you sit : BUTTOCKS ▪ The poor baby has a rash all over his little *bottom*.

3 a [*singular*] : a position of little power in a company or organization ▪ The company's new CEO started at the *bottom* and worked her way up. **b** [*singular*] : a low rank or position ▪ Why do I always find myself rooting for the team at the *bottom* of the league? ▪ She graduated ***at the bottom of her/the class***. [=her grades were among the lowest in her graduating class] **c** [*noncount*] : the worst position, level, or condition ▪ at the *bottom* of the pay scale ▪ After weeks of losing value, the company's stocks have ***hit bottom***. [=reached the bottom; lost all value] ▪ Jim has finally ***scraped bottom***. [=has finally reached the worst possible condition] — see also ROCK BOTTOM

4 a [*singular*] : the surface that is under a body of water ▪ the *bottom* of the ocean ▪ the sandy river/lake *bottom* **b** ***bottoms*** [*plural*] : the flat, low land along a river or stream : BOTTOMLAND ▪ grazing in grassy river *bottoms*

5 [*count*] : a piece of clothing that is worn on the lower part of the body ▪ a bikini *bottom* — often plural ▪ pajama *bottoms* — see color picture on page C13

6 [*singular*] : the second half of an inning in baseball ▪ They tied the score in the *bottom* of the ninth inning.

7 [*noncount*] *chiefly Brit* : the lowest gear of a car ▪ Stay in *bottom* [=*bottom gear*] until you reach the top of the hill.

at bottom *chiefly Brit* : in reality : REALLY ▪ The song is, *at bottom* [=*in truth*], a lullaby. ▪ He is very shy, *at bottom*.

at the bottom of the pile see [1]PILE

be/lie at the bottom of *chiefly Brit* : to be the source or originator of (something) ▪ I think I know who's *at the bottom of* [=*behind*] these pranks.

bottoms up *informal* — used as a toast or to tell people to finish their drinks ▪ Here's to the groom-to-be! *Bottoms up*!

from the bottom of your heart see HEART

from top to bottom see [1]TOP

get to the bottom of : to find out the true reason for or cause of (something) ▪ Police are working furiously to *get to the bottom of* this recent string of violent crimes.

the bottom drop/fall out ✧ If *the bottom drops/falls out* of something, it suddenly fails or becomes unable to continue in a normal and effective way. ▪ Analysts warn that recent changes in the region may result in *the bottom dropping out* of the oil market. [=may cause the oil market to collapse] ▪ When the accident happened, she felt *the bottom drop out* of her world. [=she felt her world collapse]

the bottom of the barrel : the lowest possible condition, level, etc. ▪ After the divorce, Tim felt he had reached/hit *the bottom of the barrel*. ▪ The excessive coverage of the scandal signals that the news media may have finally hit/reached *the bottom of the barrel*. ▪ Salaries in the industry are scraping/hitting *the bottom of the barrel*. [=salaries in the industry are very low]

– bot•tomed /ˈbɑːtəmd/ *adj* ▪ flat *bottomed* boats

[2]bottom *adj, always used before a noun*

1 : in the lowest position ▪ the *bottom* rung of the ladder ▪ the *bottom* drawer/shelf ▪ her *bottom* lip ▪ Somebody's fingerprints are all along the *bottom* edge of the photograph. — see also BOTTOM LINE

2 : living at the lowest level of an ocean or lake ▪ *bottom* fish

bet your bottom dollar see [2]BET

[3]bottom *verb* **-toms; -tomed; -tom•ing**

bottom out [*phrasal verb*] : to reach a lowest or worst point usually before beginning to rise or improve ▪ Real estate prices seem to have *bottomed out*, and sellers can expect to get higher prices in coming months. ▪ The team *bottomed out* in last place.

bottom drawer *noun, pl* ~ **-ers** [*count*] *Brit* : HOPE CHEST

bottom feeder *noun, pl* ~ **-ers** [*count*]

1 : a fish that feeds at the bottom of a lake, pond, etc.

2 *US, disapproving* : someone who uses other people's troubles, weakness, etc., as an opportunity to make money ▪ After his daughter's tragic death, he was hounded by media *bottom feeders* who demanded exclusive interviews.

3 *US, informal* : someone or something that has a very low status or rank ▪ In a surprise upset, the all-star team lost to one of the league's *bottom feeders*.

bottom gear *noun* [*noncount*] *chiefly Brit* : low gear : a vehicle's lowest gear

bot•tom•land /ˈbɑːtəmˌlænd/ *noun, pl* **-lands** [*count*] : flat low land along a river or stream — usually plural ▪ lush *bottomlands*

bot•tom•less /ˈbɑːtəmləs/ *adj*

1 a : having no bottom ▪ a *bottomless* barrel [=a barrel that has no bottom because it has been removed] **b** : seeming to have no bottom or limit ▪ a *bottomless* expense account ▪ The diner serves *bottomless* cups of coffee. [=allows customers to have as much coffee as they like for one price]

2 : very deep ▪ a *bottomless* pit

bottom line *noun*

1 ***the bottom line*** **a** : the most important part of something : the most important thing to consider ▪ *The bottom line* [=all that matters] is that the product just wasn't practical. ▪ If our flight is late, we will miss our connection. That's *the bottom line*. **b** : the final result or outcome ▪ A student with special needs can stress a school's budget, but *the bottom line* is that the state must provide for the child's education.

2 [*singular*] : a company's profits or losses ▪ How will these changes affect our *bottom line*? ▪ He's always got his eye on the *bottom line*.

3 [*singular*] : the least amount of money you are willing to consider for something ▪ He says his *bottom line* is $120,000.

bot•tom–up /ˈbɑːtəmˈʌp/ *adj* : progressing upward from the lowest levels : controlled or directed from the lower levels ▪ *bottom-up* management — opposite TOP-DOWN

bot•u•lism /ˈbɑːʧəˌlɪzəm/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a serious illness that is caused by eating food that has not been preserved correctly and that is filled with bacteria

bou•doir /ˈbuːˌdwɑɚ/ *noun, pl* **-doirs** [*count*] *old-fashioned* : a woman's bedroom or private room for dressing or resting

bouf•fant /buˈfɑːnt, *Brit* ˈbuːˌfɒŋ/ *adj* : having a full and rounded shape ▪ a *bouffant* skirt — usually used to refer to a hairstyle in which the hair is up and away from the head in a full, rounded shape ▪ *bouffant* hairdos from the 1950s

bou•gain•vil•lea /ˌbuːgənˈvɪljə/ *noun, pl* **-leas** [*count, noncount*] : a tropical plant that has usually red or purple flowers

bough /ˈbaʊ/ *noun, pl* **boughs** [*count*] : a main branch of a tree

bought *past tense and past participle of* [1]BUY

bouil•la•baisse /ˌbuːjəˈbeɪs/ *noun*

1 [*count, noncount*] : a stew made with strong spices and two or more kinds of fish

2 [*singular*] : a mixture of different kinds of things ▪ The book is a *bouillabaisse* [=(more commonly) *potpourri*] of stories and poems from around the world.

bouil•lon /ˈbuːlˌjɑːn, *Brit* ˈbuːˌjɒn/ *noun, pl* **bouillons** [*count, noncount*] : a clear liquid in which meat, chicken, fish, or vegetables have been cooked and which is eaten as soup or used to make sauces ▪ beef *bouillon*

> Do not confuse *bouillon* with *bullion*.

bouillon cube *noun, pl* ~ **cubes** [*count*] : a small cube of dried meat or vegetables that is used to add flavor to soup — called also (*Brit*) *stock cube*

boul•der /ˈboʊldɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ders** [*count*] : a very large stone or rounded piece of rock

bou•le•vard /ˈbʊləˌvɑɚd/ *noun, pl* **-vards** [*count*] : a wide and usually important street that often has trees, grass, or flowers planted down its center or along its sides ▪ walking down the *boulevard* — often used in names ▪ Sunset *Boulevard* in Los Angeles — abbr. *blvd*.

[1]bounce /ˈbaʊns/ *verb* **bounc•es; bounced; bounc•ing**

1 a [+ *obj*] : to cause (a ball, rock, etc.) to hit against a surface and quickly move in a different and usually opposite direction ▪ He was *bouncing* a tennis ball against/off the garage door. ▪ *bouncing* the ball back and forth **b** [*no obj*] : to move in one direction, hit a surface (such as a wall or the floor), and then quickly move in a different and usually opposite direction — usually + *off* ▪ The ball *bounced off* the wall. ▪ A rock *bounced off* the road and hit our car's windshield. ▪ The light will *bounce off* the mirror and shine into the next room.

2 a [*no obj*] : to move with a lot of energy and excitement ▪ He *bounced* [=*bounded*] into the room to welcome his guests. ▪ The kids are ***bouncing off the walls***. [=the kids are very/too excited and have a lot of energy] **b** : to move or jump up and down [*no obj*] The children love to *bounce* on the bed/trampoline. ▪ The winner *bounced* up and down with delight.

B

• Her curls *bounced* as she jumped. [+ *obj*] He *bounced* the baby on his knee.

3 a [*no obj*] *of a check* : to be returned by a bank because there is not enough money in the bank account to pay the amount that is on the check • She gave me a check for 20 dollars, but the check *bounced*, and I never got the money. **b** [+ *obj*] : to write (a check) that is returned without payment by the bank • He *bounced* a 100-dollar check at the grocery store. • The store charges a $15 fee for a *bounced* check.

4 [*no obj*] : to go quickly and repeatedly from one job, place, etc., to another • He *bounces* back and forth between Miami and Houston. — often + *from* • *bouncing from* place to place • She *bounces from* one job to another. • Our teacher's always *bouncing from* one subject to another.

5 : to return (an e-mail) to the sender instead of delivering it [+ *obj*] I tried to send you an e-mail, but it got *bounced* back to me. [=the e-mail or computer system was not able to deliver it] [*no obj*] I tried to send you an e-mail but it *bounced*.

bounce around [*phrasal verb*] **bounce (something) around** *or* **bounce around (something)** *informal* : to talk about (something, such as an idea) in an informal way in order to get different opinions about it • We were *bouncing* some ideas *around* for the design of the book's cover.

bounce back [*phrasal verb*] : to return quickly to a normal condition after a difficult situation or event • She *bounced back* [=*recovered*] easily from her surgery. • After losing the first three games of the series, they *bounced back* to win their next eight games.

bounce into [*phrasal verb*] *Brit, informal* **bounce (someone) into (something)** : to force (someone) to decide to do (something) especially without having time to think about it • The voters were *bounced into* agreeing to the proposal.

bounce off [*phrasal verb*] **bounce (something) off (someone)** *informal* : to talk about (something, such as an idea) with (someone) in an informal way in order to get an opinion • I wanted to *bounce* some ideas *off* you before the meeting.

[2]bounce *noun, pl* **bounces**

1 [*count*] : the act or action of bouncing off the ground or another surface • The ball took a high *bounce* over the shortstop's head. • He caught the ball on the first *bounce*.

2 [*noncount*] **a** : the ability to move quickly in a different direction after hitting a surface : the ability to bounce • a basketball that has lost all its *bounce* **b** : a quality that makes a person's hair look healthy, full, and attractive : a bouncy quality • The shampoo promises to give limp hair lots of *bounce*.

3 [*singular*] : a sudden increase • Several companies showed a *bounce* [=*upswing, upsurge*] in earnings. • After the debates, she enjoyed a big *bounce* in the election polls.

4 : energy and liveliness [*noncount*] He may be 90 years old, but he still has plenty of *bounce* [=*spring*] in his step. [*singular*] There's still a *bounce* in his step.

bounc•er /'baʊnsɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]

1 : a person whose job is to force anyone who causes a problem in a bar, nightclub, etc., to leave that place

2 : a ball that bounces on the ground • The batter hit a *bouncer* to the shortstop.

bounce pass *noun, pl* ~ **passes** [*count*] *basketball* : a pass to a teammate that is made by bouncing the ball once

bounc•ing /'baʊnsɪŋ/ *adj, always used before a noun* : very healthy and active • a *bouncing* baby boy

bouncy /'baʊnsi/ *adj* **bounc•i•er**; **-est**

1 : able to bounce well • a *bouncy* rubber ball

2 : lively, cheerful, and full of energy • a *bouncy* host • *bouncy* dance music

3 : quickly returning to a full, rounded shape after being made flat • a *bouncy* [=*springy*] seat cushion • her curly, *bouncy* hair

– **bounc•i•ly** *adv* • *bouncily* energetic – **bounc•i•ness** *noun* [*noncount*] • the music's *bounciness*

[1]bound *past tense and past participle of* [1]BIND

[2]bound *adj*

1 *not used before a noun* : very likely or certain *to do* or *to be* something • It's *bound to rain* soon. • It's *bound to be* a great party. • I knew they would get married. It was *bound to happen*. • Everyone is *bound to make* mistakes sometimes. • Such a foolish plan is *bound to fail*.

2 : unlikely or unable to change, develop, move, etc., because of being held or controlled by something • an organization that is *bound* by tradition — often used in combination • a tradition-*bound* organization • a culture-*bound* philosophy — see also DESKBOUND, FOGBOUND, HOUSEBOUND, ICEBOUND, MUSCLE-BOUND, SNOWBOUND

3 : tied together with something (such as a string or rope) • a neatly/tightly/loosely *bound* stack of papers — see also [1]BIND 1, 2

4 *not used before a noun* : closely joined or connected to other people • She and I are *bound* (together) by our shared past. [=we are connected to each other because we have the same past] • family members *bound* by either blood or marriage — see also [1]BIND 7

5 *not used before a noun* : required by law or duty to do something • The state is legally *bound* [=*obligated*] to provide each child with an education. • He was **duty bound** [=it was his duty] to help. • I felt **honor bound** to defend them. [=I felt that I had to defend them because it was morally right] • (*chiefly Brit*) The experiment, I am **bound to say** [=*I must say/admit*], seems to have succeeded. — see also [1]BIND 5

6 : held together or covered with a particular type of material — often + *in* • books *bound in* leather/velvet — often used in combination • leather-*bound* books [=books with leather covers] • a spiral-*bound* notebook [=a notebook that has its pages held together with a curving wire] — see also [1]BIND 11

bound and determined : very determined • We were *bound and determined* to finish the project on time.

bound up : closely involved or associated : greatly affected • The fates of such projects are always *bound up* in politics. — usually + *with* • Their lives are closely *bound up with* their religion. • These societal changes are inextricably *bound up with* the development of new technologies.

I'll be bound *Brit, old-fashioned* — used to stress that you are sure of something you have said • It'll be dark soon, *I'll be bound*.

– compare [3]BOUND

[3]bound /baʊnd/ *adj* : going or planning to go to a specified place • We were homeward *bound*. [=we were going towards our home] • college-*bound* teenagers [=teenagers who are planning to go to college] — often + *for* • She got on a plane *bound for* [=going to] London. • He was *bound for* New York. • a ship *bound for* Africa — see also EASTBOUND, HOMEBOUND, INBOUND, NORTHBOUND, OUTBOUND, SOUTHBOUND, WESTBOUND — compare [2]BOUND

[4]bound *noun, pl* **bounds** [*count*] : a leap or long jump • He leapt over the puddle in/with a single *bound*.

by/in leaps and bounds see [2]LEAP

– compare [6]BOUND

[5]bound *verb, always followed by an adverb or preposition* **bounds**; **bound•ed**; **bound•ing** [*no obj*] : to move by jumping : to walk or run with long, energetic steps • She came *bounding* down the stairs. • We saw three deer *bound* over the fence into the woods. — compare [7]BOUND

[6]bound *noun, pl* **bounds**

1 bounds [*plural*] : the point at which something (such as an idea or someone's behavior) stops being good or acceptable : the limit of what is correct or proper • The play goes **beyond the bounds** of decency. = The play **exceeds the bounds** of decency. • **within the bounds** of reason = within reasonable *bounds* • The police officers **exceeded/overstepped their bounds** and broke the law.

2 [*count*] : something that shows where one area ends and another area begins — usually plural • the *bounds* [=(more commonly) *boundaries*] of the nature reserve

know no bounds : to have no limit • His generosity *knows no bounds*. [=he is extremely generous]

in bounds : inside the area where players or the ball must stay in sports like basketball and American football • The receiver was still *in bounds* when he caught the pass. • The referee said the ball landed *in bounds*.

out of bounds **1** : outside the area where players or the ball must stay in sports like basketball and American football • The ball was kicked *out of bounds*. • The player stepped *out of bounds* to avoid being hit. **2** : not good or acceptable • The teacher's comment was completely *out of bounds*. [=*unacceptable, inappropriate*] **3** — used to describe a place where people are not allowed to go • The auditorium is *out of bounds* for/to students during the renovations. **4** — used to describe something that people are not allowed to discuss or mention • The subject of politics is *out of bounds* [=*off limits*] when our family gets together.

– compare [4]BOUND

[7]bound *verb* **bounds**; **bounded**; **bounding** [+ *obj*] : to form a border around (an area) — usually used as *(be) bounded* • a quiet village *bounded* [=*surrounded, enclosed*] by mountains • The city *is bounded* by two major highways. — compare [5]BOUND

bound•ary /ˈbaʊndri/ *noun, pl* **-aries**
1 [*count*] : something (such as a river, a fence, or an imaginary line) that shows where an area ends and another area begins ▪ Those two trees mark the *boundary* of our property. ▪ The river forms the country's western *boundary*.
2 [*count*] : a point or limit that indicates where two things become different ▪ at/on the *boundary* between fact and fiction
3 *boundaries* [*plural*] : unofficial rules about what should not be done : limits that define acceptable behavior ▪ You need to set *boundaries* with your children. ▪ Did he violate the *boundaries* of the doctor-patient relationship? ▪ They're ***pushing the boundaries of*** [=doing things that are unusual in] traditional French cooking.
know no boundaries **1** : to be capable of affecting people everywhere ▪ This is a disease that *knows no boundaries*. **2** : to have no limits ▪ My admiration for him *knows no boundaries*. [=*knows no bounds*]

bound•less /ˈbaʊndləs/ *adj* : not limited in any way : having no boundaries ▪ the *boundless* [=*limitless, endless*] sky ▪ We were filled with *boundless* joy. ▪ Her love for her family was *boundless*.
– **bound•less•ly** *adv* ▪ a *boundlessly* generous person

boun•te•ous /ˈbaʊntijəs/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] *formal* : giving or providing many desired things : BOUNTIFUL ▪ Together we give thanks for this *bounteous* harvest.

boun•ti•ful /ˈbaʊntɪfəl/ *adj, formal*
1 : giving or providing many desired things ▪ this *bountiful* land ▪ *bountiful* harvests
2 : given or existing in large amounts ▪ a *bountiful* supply of water ▪ a *bountiful* meal ▪ *bountiful* baskets of fruit
– **boun•ti•ful•ly** *adv* ▪ They were *bountifully* rewarded.

boun•ty /ˈbaʊnti/ *noun, pl* **-ties**
1 *literary* : good things that are given or provided freely and in large amounts [*noncount*] the *bounty* of nature = nature's *bounty* ▪ summer's *bounty* of plump tomatoes [*singular*] The cottage is filled with a *bounty* of fresh flowers.
2 [*count*] : an amount of money given to someone as a reward for catching a criminal ▪ A *bounty* of 500 dollars was put on his head. [=anyone who captured him would receive a 500-dollar bounty]

bounty hunter *noun, pl* **~ -ers** [*count*] : someone who catches criminals who have not been caught by the police in exchange for a reward

bou•quet /boʊˈkeɪ, buːˈkeɪ/ *noun, pl* **-quets** [*count*]
1 : a group of flowers that are picked and often tied together ▪ The bride carried a *bouquet* of white and red roses.
2 : a particular and usually pleasant smell of flowers or wine ▪ The wine has a lovely *bouquet*.

bouquet gar•ni /-gɑɚˈniː/ *noun, pl* **bouquets gar•nis** /-gɑɚˈniː/ [*count*] : a bunch of herbs that are tied together or put in a cloth bag and cooked with food to add flavor but removed before the food is served

bour•bon /ˈbɚbən/ *noun, pl* **-bons** : a type of American whiskey made from corn, malt, and rye [*noncount*] a glass of *bourbon* ▪ I prefer *bourbon* to Scotch. [*count*] We'll have two *bourbons* [=two glasses of bourbon], please.

bour•geois /ˈbuɚʒˌwɑː/ *adj*
1 : relating to or belonging to the middle class of society ▪ the *bourgeois* class ▪ *bourgeois* families/businessmen
2 [*more ~; most ~*] *disapproving* : having qualities or values associated with the middle class : too concerned about wealth, possessions, and respectable behavior ▪ *bourgeois* life/culture/society ▪ *bourgeois* attitudes/values ▪ *bourgeois* materialism
– **bourgeois** *noun, pl* **bour•geois** /ˈbuɚʒˌwɑːz/ [*count*] ▪ He was a *bourgeois*, not a nobleman. ▪ a philosopher who had no sympathy for the *bourgeois* — see also PETIT BOURGEOIS

bour•geoi•sie /ˌbuɚʒˌwɑːˈziː/ *noun*
the bourgeoisie : the middle class of society : the social class of skilled workers, business and professional people, and government officials ▪ members of *the bourgeoisie*

bout /ˈbaʊt/ *noun, pl* **bouts** [*count*]
1 : a period of time during which someone suffers from something (such as an illness or disease) — often + *of* ▪ a *bout of* fever ▪ She struggles with frequent *bouts of* depression. — often + *with* in U.S. English ▪ She survived a 5-year *bout with* cancer. ▪ a *bout with* the flu
2 : a short period of time during which something is done or happening ▪ a drinking *bout* — often + *of* ▪ a 4-hour *bout of* reading ▪ a *bout of* unemployment
3 : a wrestling or boxing contest ▪ He lost his *bout* [=*fight*] with the boxing champion.

bou•tique /buːˈtiːk/ *noun, pl* **-tiques** [*count*] : a small store that sells stylish clothing or other usually expensive things

bou•ton•niere /ˌbuːtn̩ˈiɚ, *Brit* buːˌtɒniˈɛə/ *noun, pl* **-nieres** [*count*] *US* : a flower or small group of flowers that men sometimes wear on their jackets on special occasions (such as weddings) — called also (*Brit*) *buttonhole*

bo•vine /ˈboʊˌvaɪn/ *adj*
1 *technical* : relating to cows ▪ a *bovine* illness ▪ *bovine* growth hormones
2 *disapproving* : looking or acting like a cow ▪ his round *bovine* face ▪ She stared at us with a stupid, *bovine* expression.

[1]bow /ˈbaʊ/ *verb* **bows; bowed; bow•ing**
1 [*no obj*] : to bend forward at the neck or waist as a formal way of greeting someone or showing respect ▪ He *bowed* politely and introduced himself to us. ▪ You must *bow* (down) before the king. ▪ a man *bowing* to kiss the hand of a woman ▪ The men *bowed* and the women curtsied as the royal couple walked past. ▪ She *bowed* down in front of the altar. — often + *to* ▪ They *bowed to* each other and began talking. ▪ She *bowed to* the audience and walked off stage.
2 [+ *obj*] : to turn (your head) down so that you are looking toward the ground ▪ people *bowing* their heads in prayer ▪ His head was *bowed* [=*lowered*] in shame. ▪ We listened with *bowed* heads.
3 [*no obj*] : to stop trying to fight or resist something : to agree to do or accept something that you have been resisting or opposing — usually + *to* ▪ The President *bowed* [=*gave in, yielded*] *to* political pressure. ▪ They usually *bow to* his wishes. [=they usually do what he wants] ▪ She finally ***bowed to the inevitable*** and accepted their decision.
bow and scrape : to treat someone who is powerful or wealthy in an extremely respectful way especially in order to get approval, friendship, etc. ▪ She's disgusted by politicians who *bow and scrape* before wealthy contributors.
bow down to [*phrasal verb*] ***bow down to (someone or something)*** : to show weakness by agreeing to the demands or following the orders of (someone or something) ▪ I will *bow down to* no one. [=I will take orders from no one; I will submit to no one] ▪ The government is refusing to *bow down to* [=*give in to*] pressure to lift the sanctions.
bow out [*phrasal verb*] : to stop doing something : to stop being involved in a contest, an activity, etc. ▪ He knew he would not win the election, so he decided to *bow out* of the presidential race. ▪ He *bowed out* [=*left, withdrew*] gracefully. ▪ She has *bowed out* of the restaurant business entirely.
– compare [5]BOW

[2]bow *noun, pl* **bows** [*count*] : the act of bending forward at the neck or waist in order to greet someone or show respect : the act of bowing ▪ In some cultures it is polite to greet people with a *bow*, while in others a handshake is preferred. ▪ He smiled and made/gave a *bow*.
take a bow : to bow towards an audience that is applauding for you ▪ When the play has finished, the actors will line up to *take a bow*. — often used figuratively to say that someone deserves to be praised ▪ The people who organized the festival should *take a bow* for its remarkable success.
– compare [3]BOW, [4]BOW

[3]bow /ˈbaʊ/ *noun, pl* **bows** [*count*] : the front part of a boat or ship ▪ The deck was cleaned from *bow* to stern. [=from the front end to the back end] — see picture at BOAT; opposite [2]STERN — compare [2]BOW, [4]BOW

[4]bow /ˈboʊ/ *noun, pl* **bows** [*count*]
1 : a knot that is made by tying a ribbon or string into two or more loops and that is used for tying shoelaces or for decoration ▪ She tied/wore a *bow* in her hair. — see also BOW TIE
2 : a weapon used for shooting arrows that is made of a long, thin piece of wood which is bent with its ends connected by a tight, strong string ▪ They hunted with *bows* and arrows.
3 : a tool that is used for playing a violin or similar musical instrument and that is made of a thin stick of wood with its ends connected by stretched pieces of hair or fiber — see picture at STRINGED INSTRUMENT
– compare [2]BOW, [3]BOW

[5]bow *verb* **bows; bowed; bow•ing**
1 [+ *obj*] : to use a bow to play (a violin or similar musical instrument) ▪ *bowing* or plucking the violin strings — see also BOWING
2 : to bend or curve [*no obj*] The wall *bows* out at the bottom. [+ *obj*] Years of riding horses has *bowed* his legs. ▪ Peo-

ple with this disorder often have *bowed* legs. — see also BOWLEGGED
– compare [1]BOW

bowd•ler•ize *also Brit* **bowd•ler•ise** /ˈboʊdləˌraɪz, *Brit* ˈbaʊdləˌraɪz/ *verb* **-iz•es**; **-ized**; **-iz•ing** [+ *obj*] *usually disapproving* : to change (a book, play, movie, etc.) by removing parts that could offend people ▪ *bowdlerize* a classic novel by removing offensive language
– **bowdlerized** *also Brit* **bowdlerised** *adj* ▪ a *bowdlerized* version of the novel

bow•el /ˈbaʊəl/ *noun, pl* **-els**
1 [*count*] : the long tube in the body that helps digest food and carries solid waste out of the body ▪ a disease of the *bowel* — often plural ▪ a disease that affects the *bowels* ✧ To have a ***bowel movement*** or to ***move your bowels*** or (*Brit*) ***open your bowels*** is to pass solid waste from your body. ▪ The patient made/had a normal *bowel movement*.
2 ***the bowels*** *literary* : the deep inner parts *of* something ▪ They dug deep into *the bowels of* the earth. ▪ The engine room is down in *the bowels of* the ship.

bow•er /ˈbaʊə/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] *literary* : a pleasant shady place in a garden or forest ▪ resting in the shade of the *bower*

bow•ing /ˈboʊɪŋ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the style or technique for using a bow when playing a violin or similar musical instrument

[1]bowl /ˈboʊl/ *noun, pl* **bowls**
1 [*count*] **a** : a round container that has tall, curving sides and that is used for preparing or serving foods and liquids ▪ a soup/salad/pasta *bowl* [=a bowl used for serving or eating soup/salad/pasta] ▪ the dog's water *bowl* — see picture at PLACE SETTING; see also MIXING BOWL, PUNCH BOWL **b** : the food or liquid served in a bowl ▪ We gave the kittens a *bowl* [=*bowlful*] of milk. : the amount of food or liquid served in a bowl ▪ I ate two *bowls* of soup for dinner. ▪ May I have another *bowl* of ice cream?
2 [*count*] : a part of something that is shaped like a bowl: such as **a** : the bottom part of a toilet ▪ a toilet *bowl* **b** : the deep, rounded part of a spoon **c** : the part of a pipe that holds tobacco
3 [*singular*] : a valley or area of land that is low and that has higher land around it ▪ a town in the *bowl* of the mountains — see also DUST BOWL
4 [*singular*] *US* : a large stadium or theater that is shaped like a bowl — used in names ▪ a concert at the Hollywood *Bowl*
5 [*count*] *American football* : a game that is played after the regular season between college teams that have been specially invited ▪ college *bowl* games — usually used in names ▪ the Orange *Bowl* — see also SUPER BOWL
6 a [*count*] : a ball used in the game of lawn bowling **b** ***bowls*** [*plural*] *Brit* : LAWN BOWLING

[2]bowl *verb* **bowls**; **bowled**; **bowl•ing**
1 [+ *obj*] : to roll (a ball) towards something especially in the game of bowling or lawn bowling ▪ I don't think I can *bowl* a 12-pound ball.
2 a [*no obj*] : to play the game of bowling ▪ We *bowl* every Thursday night. ▪ Do you like to *bowl*? ▪ I haven't *bowled* since I was a kid. **b** [+ *obj*] : to get (a score) in a game of bowling ▪ She usually *bowls* around 150.
3 [+ *obj*] *cricket* **a** : to throw (a ball) to the batsman **b** : to force (a batsman) to leave the field by throwing a ball that hits the wicket behind the batsman ▪ He was *bowled* (out) for 47.
4 *always followed by an adverb or preposition* [*no obj*] *chiefly Brit* : to move or go very quickly ▪ We were *bowling* along the motorway in her new car.
bowl over [*phrasal verb*] **1** ***bowl (someone or something) over*** *or* ***bowl over (someone or something)*** : to hit and push down (someone or something) while quickly moving past ▪ We were almost *bowled over* by the wind. **2** ***bowl (someone) over*** *or* ***bowl over (someone)*** : to surprise or impress (someone) very much ▪ He was completely *bowled over* by the news. ▪ She *bowled over* [=*amazed*] the judges with her excellent performance.

bow•leg•ged /ˈboʊˌlɛgəd/ *adj* : having legs that curve outward at the knee ▪ He's short and *bowlegged*. ▪ a *bowlegged* woman

bowl•er /ˈboʊlə/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]
1 : someone who plays the game of bowling ▪ She's a great *bowler*. [=she bowls very well]
2 *cricket* : the player who throws the ball to the batsman
3 *chiefly Brit* : DERBY 4

bowlful *noun, pl* **-fuls** [*count*] : the amount of food or liquid that fits in a bowl ▪ a *bowlful* of peanuts

bowl•ing /ˈboʊlɪŋ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a game played by rolling a large, heavy ball down a smooth floor (called a lane) towards a set of pins in order to knock down as many pins as possible ▪ She watches *bowling* on TV. ▪ We're ***going bowling***. — often used before another noun ▪ a *bowling* ball ▪ a *bowling* lane — see also LAWN BOWLING

bowling alley *noun, pl* ~ **-leys** [*count*] : a room or building in which people play the game of bowling

bow•string /ˈboʊˌstrɪŋ/ *noun, pl* **-strings** [*count*] : the strong, tight string that is used on a bow for shooting arrows

bow tie *noun, pl* ~ **-ties** [*count*] : a narrow length of cloth that is worn by men around the neck and tied into a bow at the throat — see color picture on page C16; compare NECKTIE

bow window *noun, pl* ~ **-dows** [*count*] : a large window or set of windows that curves out from the outside wall of a building

bow•wow /ˈbaʊˌwaʊ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the usual sound made by dog : a dog's bark ✧ *Bowwow* is a word used mainly by children. ▪ "What does the doggy say?" "*Bowwow*!"

[1]box /ˈbɑːks/ *noun, pl* **box•es**
1 [*count*] **a** : a container that is made of a hard material (such as wood, metal, or cardboard) and that usually has four straight sides ▪ a cardboard *box* ▪ She kept the letters in an old *box*. ▪ empty pizza *boxes* ▪ the cat's litter *box* ▪ a *box* of tissues/matches/cigars/tools **b** : the amount of something inside a box ▪ I ate an entire *box* of chocolates. ▪ two *boxes* of cereal
2 [*count*] : a container used for holding mail or papers especially in an office ▪ I'll put the messages in your *box*. ▪ The letter was sent to a post office *box* in New York. — see also IN-BOX, MAILBOX, OUT-BOX
3 a [*count*] : a piece of electronic equipment that is contained inside a box ▪ Where's the system's control *box*? ▪ The cable *box* is on top of the TV. — see also BLACK BOX, GEARBOX **b** ***the box*** *Brit, informal* : a television ▪ Let's turn on *the box* and watch the game.
4 [*count*] : a small area or section of seats that is separated from other seats inside a theater, stadium, or courtroom ▪ She's sitting in the jury *box*. — see picture at THEATER; see also BOX SEAT, LUXURY BOX, PRESS BOX, SKYBOX
5 [*count*] : a closed shape with four sides on a piece of paper, a Web page, etc.: such as **a** : a square in which you make a mark (such as an X) to show that you choose something ▪ If you are over 18 years old, check this *box*. ▪ Put an X in the correct/appropriate *box*. **b** : a square or rectangle around special information in a document, book, etc. ▪ For more information, see *box* A17.
6 [*count*] : an area on a sports field that is used for a special purpose; *especially* : one of six areas on a baseball field that are marked by lines and that show where the batter, pitcher, catcher, and coaches stand ▪ He stepped out of the batter's *box* to take a practice swing. — see also PENALTY BOX
7 [*count*] *Brit* : [1]CUP 5
8 *chiefly Brit* : an area where two streets cross that is marked by painted lines to show where cars are not allowed to stop but can only pass through ▪ The sign at the intersection said "Don't Block the *Box*." — called also (*Brit*) *box junction*
think outside the box ✧ If you *think outside the box*, your thoughts are not limited or controlled by rules or tradition, and you have ideas that are creative and unusual. ▪ To solve this puzzle, you'll have to *think outside the box*.
– compare [4]BOX

[2]box *verb* **boxes**; **boxed**; **box•ing** [+ *obj*] : to put (something) in a box ▪ Can you *box* this for me? It's a gift. ▪ The CDs are sold as a ***boxed set***. [=a set of things that are sold together in a box] — often + *up* ▪ She was told to *box up* her things and go home.
box in [*phrasal verb*] ***box (someone or something) in*** : to surround (someone or something) and make movement difficult ▪ The other bicyclists *boxed her in* and she couldn't move ahead. — usually used as *(be) boxed in* ▪ We got *boxed in* and couldn't get out of our parking space. [=other cars were parked so close to our car that we could not move out of our parking space] — sometimes used figuratively ▪ I feel *boxed in* by all these rules.
– compare [3]BOX

[3]box *verb* **boxes**; **boxed**; **boxing** : to participate in the sport of boxing : to fight with the hands often while wearing very thick gloves [*no obj*] His father taught him how to *box*

when he was 12. [+ *obj*] Who did he *box* in his first fight? — see also KICKBOXING, SHADOWBOX

box someone's ears *old-fashioned* : to hit someone on the sides of the head or on the ears ▪ His mother threatened to *box his ears* if he misbehaved again.

– compare ²BOX

⁴box *noun, pl* **box•es** [*count, noncount*] : BOXWOOD 1 — compare ¹BOX

box•car /ˈbɑːksˌkɑɚ/ *noun, pl* **-cars** [*count*] *US* : a section of a train that has a roof and large, sliding doors and that carries goods and supplies rather than people ▪ *boxcars* filled with lumber/televisions

box cutter *noun, pl* ~ **-ters** [*count*] : a small tool that is made for opening cardboard boxes and that has a very sharp blade that can be pushed in and out of its case

box•er /ˈbɑːksɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers**

1 [*count*] : someone who participates in the sport of boxing

2 [*count*] : a type of dog that has a short, square face and a tail that is usually cut short when the dog is young — see picture at DOG

3 ***boxers*** [*plural*] : BOXER SHORTS

boxer shorts *noun* [*plural*] : loose shorts that are worn as underwear by men and boys ▪ a pair of *boxer shorts* — see color picture on page C13; compare ²BRIEF 4

box•ing /ˈbɑːksɪŋ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the sport of fighting someone with your hands while wearing very thick gloves — often used before another noun ▪ a *boxing* glove ▪ a *boxing* match ▪ the heavyweight *boxing* champion of the world

Boxing Day *noun* [*count, noncount*] *chiefly Brit* : a holiday that is celebrated especially in England and Canada on the first day after Christmas that is not a Sunday

box junction *noun, pl* ~ **-tions** [*count*] *Brit* : ¹BOX 8

box lunch *noun, pl* ~ **lunches** [*count*] *US* : BAG LUNCH

box office *noun, pl* ~ **-fices**

1 [*count*] : an area in a theater where tickets are sold for a movie, play, etc. ▪ The *box office* will open at 10:00 a.m.

2 [*singular*] — used to describe how many tickets have been sold for a movie, play, etc. ▪ The movie did very well at the *box office*. [=many people bought tickets to see the movie] ▪ It made over 100 million dollars at the *box office*. — often used before another noun ▪ The movie is a *box office* hit/success. ▪ a *box office* failure/flop

box room *noun, pl* ~ **rooms** [*count*] *Brit* : a room in a house where things are stored

box score *noun, pl* ~ **scores** [*count*] *US* : a small chart that shows the players, score, and other details of a baseball game ▪ reading the *box scores* in the newspaper

box seat *noun, pl* ~ **seats** [*count*] : a seat in a small area or section of seats that is separated from the other seats a theater or stadium

box spring *noun, pl* ~ **springs** [*count*] *US* : a wide, flat box that is filled with metal springs and covered with cloth and that is put under a mattress for support — see picture at BED

box•wood /ˈbɑːksˌwʊd/ *noun, pl* **-woods**

1 *US* : an evergreen bush or small tree that has small dark leaves and that is used especially to make hedges or boundaries in gardens [*noncount*] a *boxwood* hedge [*count*] We planted a few *boxwoods*. — called also *box*

2 [*noncount*] : the tough, hard wood of the boxwood ▪ a piece of *boxwood*

¹boy /ˈbɔɪ/ *noun, pl* **boys**

1 [*count*] **a** : a male child ▪ It's a *boy*! She gave birth to a baby *boy* this morning. ▪ a nine-year-old *boy* named David ▪ Okay, *boys* and girls, it's time to play a game. ▪ Ever since I was a (little/young) *boy*, I've wanted to fly airplanes. **b** : SON ▪ Is this your little *boy*? ▪ He's our oldest/youngest *boy*. ▪ That's my *boy*! Good job, Son.

2 [*count*] **a** : a young man ▪ a group of teenage *boys* ▪ My parents want me to meet a nice *boy* and get married. ▪ Don't be so hard on him. He's just a *boy*. ▪ He's a *boy* genius. ▪ a ***boy wonder*** [=a young man who has achieved many great things] **b** : a usually young man from a specified kind of place ▪ city/country *boys* = *boys* from the city/country ▪ a local/hometown *boy* ▪ a poor *boy* from the north ▪ a farm *boy* [=a young man who lives and works on a farm]

3 a ***the boys*** *informal* : the male friends or work partners of a man viewed as a group ▪ Wait till *the boys* back home hear about this! ▪ Our boss thinks of himself as just one of *the boys*. ▪ He went out drinking with *the boys*. **b** [*singular*] *chiefly Brit, old-fashioned* : a man of any age ✧ The phrases ***my dear boy*** and ***old boy*** are used as friendly ways for one man to address another man. ▪ Why, *my dear boy*, of course I want to see you. ▪ Cheer up, *old boy*. — see also OLD BOY

4 [*count*] : a man or boy who does a particular job ▪ a messenger *boy* ✧ *Boy* is often offensive in this sense when the person being described is an adult. — see also ALTAR BOY, BALL BOY, BATBOY, BELLBOY, BUSBOY, DELIVERY BOY, PAPERBOY

boys will be boys ✧ The expression *boys will be boys* is used to say that it is not surprising or unusual when men or boys behave in energetic, rough, or improper ways. ▪ You shouldn't be too hard on them for staying out so late. *Boys will be boys*.

separate the men from the boys see ²SEPARATE

– see also BAD BOY, BIG BOYS, GOOD OLD BOY, POSTER BOY, PRETTY BOY

– **boy•hood** /ˈbɔɪˌhʊd/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the president's early *boyhood* — often used before another noun ▪ his *boyhood* home [=where he lived when he was a boy] ▪ *boyhood* heroes/friends – **boy•ish** /ˈbɔɪɪʃ/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ his *boyish* good looks ▪ He has a *boyish* charm about him. ▪ a *boyish* haircut ▪ She's always had a *boyish* figure. – **boy•ish•ly** *adv* ▪ a *boyishly* handsome actor – **boy•ish•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

²boy *interj* — used as a way to express surprise or enthusiasm ▪ *Boy*, I sure am hungry! ▪ *Boy*, have I got a story for you! ▪ There's a surprise? Oh, *boy*! What is it? ▪ *Boy*, oh, *boy*. This is great!! ▪ *Boy*, that test was really hard.

¹boy•cott /ˈbɔɪˌkɑːt/ *verb* **-cotts**; **-cott•ed**; **-cott•ing** [+ *obj*] : to refuse to buy, use, or participate in (something) as a way of protesting ▪ plans to *boycott* American products ▪ They *boycotted* the city's bus system. ▪ The country's leaders *boycotted* [=did not attend] the event in protest. : to stop using the goods or services of (a company, country, etc.) until changes are made ▪ We *boycotted* companies that were polluting the environment.

²boycott *noun, pl* **-cotts** [*count*] : an often organized act of boycotting something ▪ the 1955 bus *boycott* — often + *of, against*, or *on* ▪ the country's *boycott of* the Olympics ▪ a *boycott against/on* the company's products

boy•friend /ˈbɔɪˌfrɛnd/ *noun, pl* **-friends** [*count*] : a man that someone is having a romantic or sexual relationship with ▪ My *boyfriend* and I have only been dating for a couple of months. — compare GIRLFRIEND

Boy Scout *noun, pl* ~ **Scouts** [*count*] : a member of an organization for boys ages 11 to 17 ✧ Boy Scouts participate in group activities, learn skills, and are encouraged to have good morals and be good citizens. — called also *Scout*; compare CUB SCOUT, GIRL SCOUT

boy•sen•ber•ry /ˈbɔɪzn̩ˌberi, *Brit* ˈbɔɪzn̩bri/ *noun, pl* **-ries** [*count*] : a large reddish-black berry that has the flavor of a raspberry

bo•zo /ˈboʊzoʊ/ *noun, pl* **bo•zos** [*count*] *informal* : a stupid or foolish person ▪ Some *bozo* forgot to shut the door.

Br *abbr* **1** Britain **2** British

bra /ˈbrɑː/ *noun, pl* **bras** [*count*] : a piece of clothing that is worn by women under other clothes to cover and support the breasts — called also *brassiere*; see color picture on page C13

¹brace /ˈbreɪs/ *verb* **brac•es**; **braced**; **brac•ing**

1 : to get ready for something difficult or unpleasant [*no obj*] (*chiefly US*) — usually + *for* ▪ The town is *bracing for* a busy tourist season. ▪ We *braced for* the storm. [+ *obj*] ***Brace yourself***. [=*prepare yourself*] I have some bad news. — usually + *for* ▪ She *braced herself for* the news.

2 [+ *obj*] : to give added physical support or strength to (something) ▪ He *braced* the gate with a piece of wood. ▪ Steel columns *brace* the structure.

3 [+ *obj*] **a** : to support (yourself) by leaning against something or holding something ▪ She ***braced herself*** with one hand and reached up with the other. — often + *against* ▪ He *braced himself against* the wall. **b** : to place (something, such as your feet or hands) against something for support — usually + *against* ▪ He *braced* his foot *against* the wall.

²brace *noun, pl* **braces**

1 [*count*] : a part that adds physical strength or support ▪ We need to add some sort of *brace* to hold the shelf in place.

2 [*count*] **a** : a device that supports a part of the body ▪ He could walk with *braces* on his legs. ▪ She wears a back/neck *brace*. **b** : a device that is attached to teeth to make them straight ▪ (*Brit*) He has a *brace* on his teeth. — plural in U.S. English ▪ He has *braces* on his teeth. ▪ She needed *braces* as a child.

3 [*count*] : either one of the marks { or } that are used as a pair around words or items that are to be considered together — usually plural ▪ Computer codes appear within *braces*. — called also *curly brace, curly bracket*

4 braces [*plural*] *Brit* : SUSPENDERS

5 *pl* **brace** [*count*] : a pair of birds that have been hunted and killed ▪ several *brace* [=(more commonly) *pairs*] of quail

brace•let /ˈbreɪslət/ *noun, pl* **-lets** [*count*] : a piece of jewelry worn on the wrist — see color picture on page C11

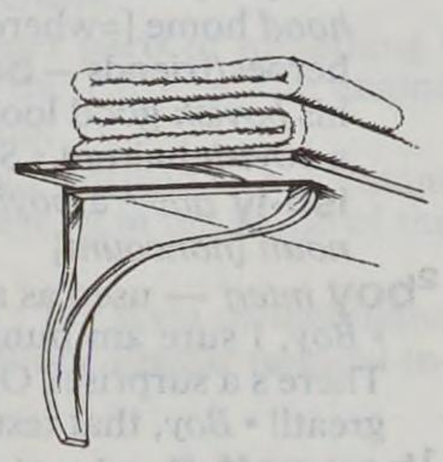
brac•ing /ˈbreɪsɪŋ/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : pleasantly cool or cold ▪ clean, *bracing* air — often used figuratively ▪ Her honest remarks provided a *bracing* [=*refreshing*] change from the bland, political commentary.

– **brac•ing•ly** *adv* ▪ *bracingly* cool breezes

brack•en /ˈbrækən/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a large plant that grows commonly in many places around the world : a large kind of fern

[1]brack•et /ˈbrækət/ *noun, pl* **-ets** [*count*]

1 : an object that is attached to a wall and used to support or hold up something (such as a shelf) ▪ The shelf is held up with two *brackets*. ▪ There are wall *brackets* in the garage for the rakes and shovels.



bracket

2 : a category that includes a certain range of incomes, ages, etc. ▪ She is taller/shorter than average for her ***age bracket*** ▪ He earned enough to put him in a higher ***tax bracket*** ▪ She is now in a lower/higher ***income bracket*** than before.

3 a : either one of a pair of marks [ ] or ⟨ ⟩ used to enclose words or mathematical symbols — usually plural ▪ The title appears in/within *brackets* at the top of the page. ✧ The marks [ ] are also called *square brackets* and the marks ⟨ ⟩ are also called *angle brackets*. **b** *Brit* : PARENTHESIS

[2]bracket *verb* **-ets**; **-et•ed**; **-et•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to place (words, symbols, etc.) within brackets ▪ She *bracketed* (off) portions of the text. ▪ *bracketed* information/text/material

2 : to be located at each side of (something) — usually used as *(be) bracketed* ▪ The front door is *bracketed* [=*flanked*] by tall bushes.

3 : to put (two or more people or things) into the same category, group, etc. ▪ Should Haydn and Mozart be *bracketed* (together/with each other)? = Should Mozart be *bracketed* (together) with Haydn?

brack•ish /ˈbrækɪʃ/ *adj* : somewhat salty ▪ *brackish* water ▪ a *brackish* pond

brag /ˈbræg/ *verb* **brags**; **bragged**; **brag•ging** : to talk about yourself, your achievements, your family, etc., in a way that shows too much pride [*no obj*] After winning the race, she couldn't stop *bragging*. ▪ "I don't mean to *brag*," he said, "but I'm an excellent cook." — often + *about* ▪ She *bragged about* winning the race. ▪ They're always *bragging about* their son's accomplishments. [+ *obj*] He *bragged* that his daughter was the best student in her class. ▪ "I'm the fastest runner on the team," she *bragged*.

brag•ga•do•cio /ˌbrægəˈdoʊsiˌoʊ, ˌ/ *noun* [*noncount*] *literary* : the annoying or exaggerated talk of someone who is trying to sound very proud or brave ▪ a loudmouthed braggart who hid his cowardice with *braggadocio*

brag•gart /ˈbrægət/ *noun, pl* **-garts** [*count*] : a person who brags a lot ▪ a loudmouthed *braggart*

bragging rights *noun* [*plural*] *US* : a good reason to talk with pride about something you have done ▪ She earned *bragging rights* for completing the project on time.

Brah•man *or* **Brah•min** /ˈbrɑːmən/ *noun, pl* **-mans** *or* **-mins** [*count*]

1 : a member of the highest priestly class of Hindu society

2 *usually* ***Brahmin*** *US, old-fashioned* : an educated person who belongs to a high social class ▪ She was the daughter of a *Boston Brahmin*.

[1]braid /ˈbreɪd/ *noun, pl* **braids**

1 [*count*] *chiefly US* : an arrangement of hair made by weaving three sections together ▪ She wore her hair in a long *braid*. [=(*chiefly Brit*) *plait*] — see picture at HAIR

2 [*noncount*] : a piece of cord or ribbon made of three or more strands woven together ▪ a hat trimmed with *braid*

[2]braid *verb* **braids**; **braid•ed**; **braid•ing** [+ *obj*] : to form (something, such as hair) into a braid : to weave together (three or more strands or parts of something) ▪ She *braids* her hair every morning. ▪ They *braided* the ribbons.

braided *adj*

1 : formed with three or more parts woven together ▪ *braided* [=(*chiefly Brit*) *plaited*] hair ▪ a *braided* rug

2 : decorated with a piece of cord or ribbon made of three or more strands woven together : decorated with braid ▪ a hat with *braided* trim

braille *or* **Braille** /ˈbreɪl/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a system of writing for blind people in which letters are represented by raised dots ▪ a book made available in *braille* — often used before another noun ▪ a *braille* book

[1]brain /ˈbreɪn/ *noun, pl* **brains** [*count*]

1 : the organ of the body in the head that controls functions, movements, sensations, and thoughts ▪ Scientists are learning more about how the human *brain* works. ▪ The left and right sides of the *brain* have different functions. — often used before another noun ▪ a *brain* injury/tumor ▪ *brain* damage/surgery ▪ *brain* cells/tissue

2 *informal* : the ability to think and reason : INTELLIGENCE ▪ Don't be such an idiot—use your *brain*. [=*head*] ▪ She has a good *brain*. [=she is smart] ▪ I'm sorry—I don't know where my *brain* is today. [=I'm not thinking clearly today] ▪ If he had ***half a brain*** [=if he was at all smart], he would have left a long time ago. — often plural ▪ If he had any *brains*, he would have left a long time ago. ▪ She has both *brains* and beauty.

3 *informal* : a very intelligent person ▪ The other children always teased him about being such a *brain*. ▪ She is one of the best *brains* [=*intellects, minds*] in the field. ✧ If you are ***the brains of/behind*** something, you are the person who thinks of plans or makes important decisions for a group. ▪ She's *the brains of* this organization. ▪ He was *the brains behind* the scheme.

beat/bash someone's brains out *or US* ***beat/bash someone's brains in*** *informal* : to hit someone on the head in a way that causes serious injury or death : to beat someone very badly ▪ They threatened to *beat my brains in* if I ever came here again.

blow someone's brains out *informal* : to kill someone with a shot to the head : to shoot someone fatally in the head ▪ When he refused to hand over the money, the robbers threatened to *blow his brains out*.

cudgel your brain/brains *informal + old-fashioned* : to think very hard : to rack your brain ▪ I *cudgeled my brains* for a solution to the problem.

on the brain *informal* : always in your thoughts ▪ I've had pizza *on the brain* all day. [=I've been thinking about pizza all day] ▪ He's got sex *on the brain*. [=he's always thinking about sex]

pick someone's brain/brains *informal* : to talk to someone in order to get helpful information or advice ▪ Do you have a moment? I need to *pick your brain* about a little situation that has come up.

rack your brain/brains see [2]RACK

[2]brain *verb* **brains**; **brained**; **brain•ing** [+ *obj*] *informal* : to hit (someone) on the head very hard ▪ The tree limb fell and nearly *brained* me.

brain•child /ˈbreɪnˌʧajəld/ *noun* [*singular*] : an idea, plan, or creation of one person ▪ The museum is the *brainchild* of a wealthy art collector.

brain–dead /ˈbreɪnˌdɛd/ *adj*

1 *medical* : showing no sign of activity in the brain : having no brain function ▪ Doctors determined that she was *brain-dead*.

2 *informal* : very stupid ▪ You would have to be *brain-dead* not to see the problem. : not able to function normally ▪ I'll be *brain-dead* in the morning if I don't get some sleep.

brain death *noun* [*noncount*] *medical* : the condition of having no brain function : the end of activity in the brain

brain drain *noun* [*singular*] : a situation in which many educated or professional people leave a particular place or profession and move to another one that gives them better pay or living conditions ▪ Nothing has been done to stop the *brain drain* as more and more doctors move away from the area.

brain•i•ac /ˈbreɪniˌæk/ *noun, pl* **-acs** [*count*] *informal* : a very intelligent person ▪ the class *brainiac* — often used before another noun ▪ a *brainiac* scientist

brain•less /ˈbreɪnləs/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] *informal* : very stupid or silly ▪ He thought most of his coworkers were

ADLAI E. STEVENSON H.S. LIBRARY

brainless. ▪ The plot of the new movie is *brainless* and the acting is terrible.
– **brain•less•ly** *adv* – **brain•less•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

brain•pow•er /ˈbreɪnˌpaʊə/ *noun* [*noncount*]
1 : the ability to think intelligently ▪ The *brainpower* of the staff constitutes the company's greatest asset. ▪ The product is supposed to boost your *brainpower*.
2 : people who are very intelligent ▪ The company is increasing efforts to recruit scientific *brainpower*.

[1]brain•storm /ˈbreɪnˌstoəm/ *noun, pl* **-storms** [*count*]
1 *US* : an idea that someone thinks of suddenly — usually singular ▪ Her latest *brainstorm* is to convert the garage into an apartment. — called also (*chiefly Brit*) *brain wave*
2 *Brit* : a temporary state of confusion : a period of unclear thinking ▪ I'm sorry—I must have been having a *brainstorm* when I wrote that.

[2]brainstorm *verb* **-storms**; **-stormed**; **-storm•ing** : to try to solve a problem by talking with other people : to discuss a problem and suggest solutions [*no obj*] We need to *brainstorm* about this. [+ *obj*] They had a meeting to *brainstorm* some ideas.
– **brainstorming** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ We did some *brainstorming* and came up with some ideas. ▪ We had a *brainstorming* session.

brain•teas•er /ˈbreɪnˌtiːzə/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : a puzzle that is difficult to figure out or solve

brain trust *noun, pl* ~ **trusts** [*count*] *US* : a group of people who give advice to a leader about what should be done ▪ The president's *brain trust* recommended the action. — called also (*Brit*) *brains trust*

brain•wash /ˈbreɪnˌwɑːʃ/ *verb* **-wash•es**; **-washed**; **-wash•ing** [+ *obj*] : to cause (someone) to think or believe something by using methods that make a person unable to think normally ▪ Terrorists *brainwashed* the prisoners. ▪ Does advertising *brainwash* children? — often + *into* ▪ She was *brainwashed into* donating all her money to the cult.

brain wave *noun, pl* ~ **waves** [*count*]
1 : a pattern or cycle of electrical activity in the brain — usually plural ▪ Do your *brain waves* change when you are sleeping?
2 *chiefly Brit* : [1]BRAINSTORM 1

brainy /ˈbreɪni/ *adj* **brain•i•er**; **-est** [*also more* ~; *most* ~] *informal* : very intelligent ▪ a *brainy* child
– **brain•i•ness** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ She shouldn't hide her *braininess*.

braise /ˈbreɪz/ *verb* **brais•es**; **braised**; **brais•ing** [+ *obj*] : to cook (food) slowly in fat and a small amount of liquid in a covered pot ▪ He *braised* the beef in a wine sauce.
– **braised** *adj* ▪ *braised* chicken/cabbage

[1]brake /ˈbreɪk/ *noun, pl* **brakes** [*count*]
1 : a device for slowing or stopping something (such as a wheel or vehicle) ▪ She released the *brake* slowly. ▪ Take your foot off the *brake*. — often plural ▪ The car will need new *brakes* soon. ▪ He ***slammed/jammed on the brakes*** [=he applied the brakes very quickly] to avoid hitting the other car. — often used before another noun ▪ *brake* shoes/fluid ▪ Take your foot off the *brake* pedal. ▪ I didn't notice that the car in front of me had its *brake* lights on. — see picture at BICYCLE; see also DISC BRAKE, EMERGENCY BRAKE, HAND BRAKE, PARKING BRAKE
2 : something used to slow or stop movement or activity — usually + *on* ▪ They plan to use interest rates as a *brake on* spending. [=as a way to slow down spending] ▪ trying to ***put the brakes on*** crime

[2]brake /ˈbreɪk/ *verb* **brakes**; **braked**; **brak•ing** [*no obj*] : to use the brake on a vehicle ▪ I had to *brake* suddenly when a cat ran in front of the car. ▪ This car has excellent *braking*. [=it stops quickly and easily when the brakes are used]

bram•ble /ˈbræmbəl/ *noun, pl* **bram•bles** [*count*]
1 *US* : a rough bush or vine that usually has sharp thorns on its branches — usually plural ▪ a field filled with *brambles*
2 *Brit* : BLACKBERRY

bran /ˈbræn/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the outer coat of the seed of a grain ▪ The doctor told me to eat more *bran* because it is a good source of fiber. — often used before another noun ▪ *bran* cereal/muffins [=cereal/muffins containing bran]

[1]branch /ˈbrænʧ, *Brit* ˈbrɑːnʧ/ *noun, pl* **branch•es** [*count*]
1 : a part of a tree that grows out from the trunk ▪ birds singing from the *branches* of a tree ▪ A large (tree) *branch* fell into our yard during the storm. — see color picture on page C6
2 a : a local office or shop of a company or organization ▪ The bank has a new *branch* in our area. ▪ She works at the ***branch office*** downtown. **b** : a major part of a government — often + *of* ▪ the executive/legislative/judicial *branch of* the United States government
3 : a part of an area of knowledge or study — often + *of* ▪ Pathology is a *branch of* medicine.
4 : a part of a family that is descended from a particular family member in the past — often + *of* ▪ We don't know much about that *branch of* the family.
5 : something that goes outward from a main line or source ▪ Some of the river's smaller *branches* flooded after the heavy rains. ▪ There was a problem with the railroad's ***branch line***.
root and branch see [1]ROOT
– **branched** /ˈbrænʧt, *Brit* ˈbrɑːnʧt/ *adj*

[2]branch *verb* **branch•es**; **branched**; **branch•ing** [*no obj*] : to divide into smaller parts : to separate into branches ▪ The stream *branches* from the river near their house.
branch off [*phrasal verb*] : to separate from something and move in a different direction ▪ The stream *branched off* to the left. — often + *from* ▪ The stream *branches off from* the river near their house. ▪ Streets *branch off from* both sides of the highway.
branch out [*phrasal verb*] : to begin to do more different kinds of activities or work ▪ In the beginning the business was highly specialized, but it has since *branched out*. — often + *into* ▪ The company specializes in casual clothing but it is *branching out into* formal wear.

[1]brand /ˈbrænd/ *noun, pl* **brands** [*count*]
1 : a category of products that are all made by a particular company and all have a particular name ▪ What *brand* are those jeans you are wearing? ▪ The store sells a variety of shoe *brands*. ▪ The company claims that its product is better than the ***leading brand***. [=the brand that sells the most] — often + *of* ▪ I'm trying a different *brand of* soap. ▪ What is your favorite *brand of* soda? ✧ ***Brand loyalty*** is the tendency of a person to continue to buy a particular brand of something. ▪ The company spends a lot of money on advertising to develop *brand loyalty*. — see also STORE BRAND
2 : a particular kind or type *of* something ▪ I don't like his *brand of* humor. ▪ a lively *brand of* theater
3 : a mark that is burned into the skin of an animal (such as a cow) to show who owns the animal

[2]brand *verb* **brands**; **brand•ed**; **brand•ing** [+ *obj*]
1 : to put a mark on the skin of (an animal) to show who owns it ▪ They no longer *brand* their cattle.
2 : to describe or identify (someone or something) with a word that expresses strong criticism ▪ They *branded* him a coward. [=they said he was a coward] — usually used as *(be) branded* ▪ He *was branded* (as) a coward. ▪ The newspaper *was branded* racist for publishing the article.

brand•ed /ˈbrændəd/ *adj, always used before a noun* : having a well-known brand name ▪ She only buys *branded* [=*brand-name*] products.

bran•dish /ˈbrændɪʃ/ *verb* **-dish•es**; **-dished**; **-dish•ing** [+ *obj*] : to wave or swing (something, such as a weapon) in a threatening or excited manner ▪ She *brandished* a stick at the dog. ▪ I could see that he was *brandishing* a knife.

brand name *noun, pl* ~ **names** [*count*] : a name that is given to a product by the company that produces or sells it ▪ The drug is sold under several *brand names*. ▪ a trusted *brand name* — compare NAME BRAND

brand–name /ˈbrændˈneɪm/ *adj* : having a well-known brand name ▪ I buy only *brand-name* [=*branded*] products.

brand–new /ˈbrændˈnuː, *Brit* ˈbrændˈnjuː/ *adj* : completely new ▪ She bought a *brand-new* car. ▪ They have a *brand-new* baby. ▪ This concept is *brand-new*—no one has ever tried anything like it before.

bran•dy /ˈbrændi/ *noun, pl* **-dies** [*count, noncount*] : an alcoholic drink made from wine

brash /ˈbræʃ/ *adj* **brash•er**; **-est**
1 : confident and aggressive in usually a rude or unpleasant way ▪ a *brash* young executive ▪ She asks such *brash* questions.
2 : very strong or harsh ▪ *brash* colors ▪ *brash* lighting
– **brash•ly** *adv* ▪ He *brashly* confronted his boss about a raise. – **brash•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

brass /ˈbræs, *Brit* ˈbrɑːs/ *noun, pl* **brass•es**
1 [*noncount*] : a yellow metal that is made by combining copper and zinc ▪ a candlestick made of *brass* — often used before another noun ▪ a *brass* candlestick
2 : musical instruments (such as trumpets, trombones, and tubas) that are made of brass [*noncount*] The whole

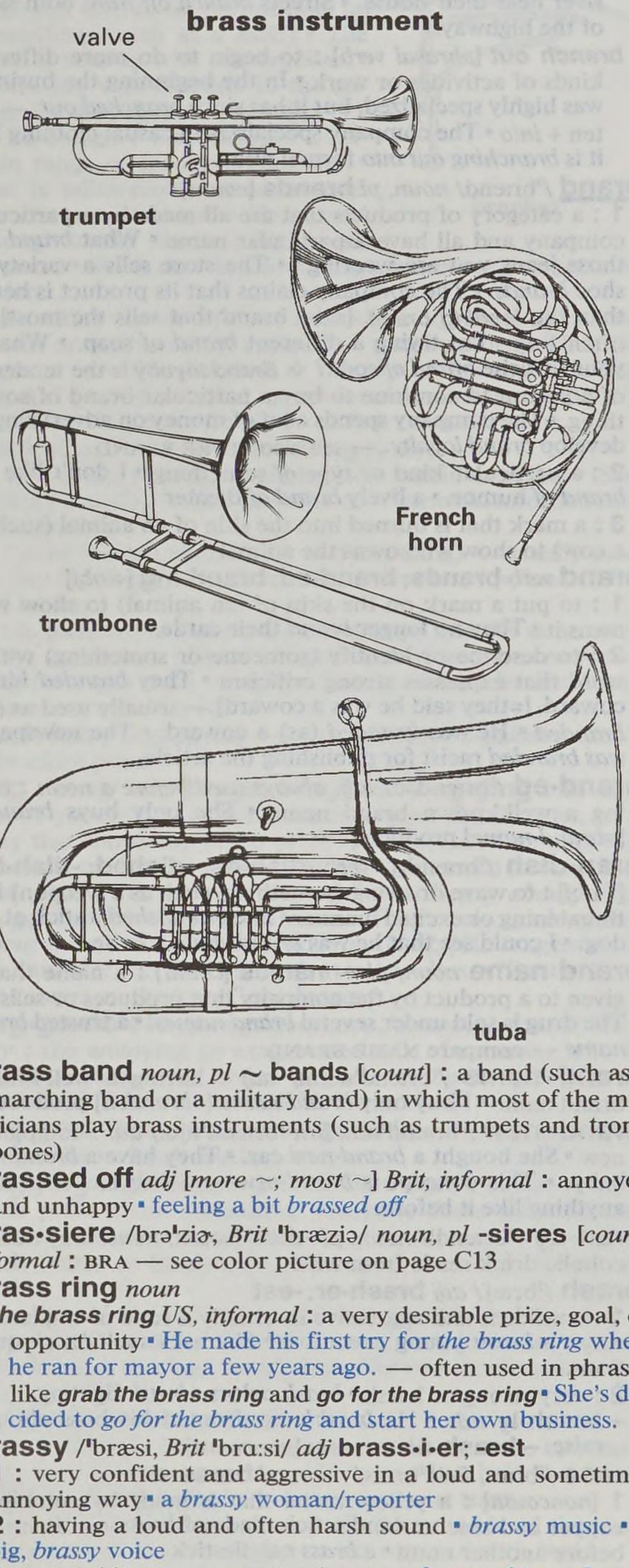
orchestra—the strings, percussion, woodwinds, and *brass*—began to play. [*plural*] The *brasses* began to play. — often used before another noun ▪ He's one of the best *brass* players in the orchestra. ▪ a *brass* instrument ▪ the orchestra's ***brass section*** [=the group of musicians in an orchestra who play brass instruments] — see also BRASS BAND

3 [*noncount*] : bright metal objects made of brass ▪ polishing the *brass* and the silver

4 [*noncount*] *chiefly US, informal* : the people in the highest positions in an organization (such as the military or a business) ▪ Navy *brass* [=*top brass*] met earlier today. — often used with *the* ▪ *The brass* met earlier today. ✧ *Brass* is used with both plural and singular verbs in this sense. ▪ *The* company *brass* have/has decided that no action is necessary at this time.

(as) bold as brass see [1]BOLD

get down to brass tacks *informal* : to start to discuss or consider the most important details or facts about something ▪ We finally *got down to brass tacks* and decided to work out a schedule for the project.



brass band *noun, pl* ~ **bands** [*count*] : a band (such as a marching band or a military band) in which most of the musicians play brass instruments (such as trumpets and trombones)

brassed off *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *Brit, informal* : annoyed and unhappy ▪ feeling a bit *brassed off*

bras•siere /brə'ziɚ, *Brit* 'bræziə/ *noun, pl* **-sieres** [*count*] *formal* : BRA — see color picture on page C13

brass ring *noun*

the brass ring *US, informal* : a very desirable prize, goal, or opportunity ▪ He made his first try for *the brass ring* when he ran for mayor a few years ago. — often used in phrases like ***grab the brass ring*** and ***go for the brass ring*** ▪ She's decided to *go for the brass ring* and start her own business.

brassy /'bræsi, *Brit* 'brɑ:si/ *adj* **brass•i•er**; **-est**

1 : very confident and aggressive in a loud and sometimes annoying way ▪ a *brassy* woman/reporter

2 : having a loud and often harsh sound ▪ *brassy* music ▪ a big, *brassy* voice

3 : resembling or suggesting brass ▪ a *brassy* shine ▪ *brassy* colors

– **brass•i•ly** /'bræsəli, *Brit* 'brɑ:səli/ *adv* – **brass•i•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

brat /'bræt/ *noun, pl* **brats** [*count*] *informal*

1 *disapproving* : a child who behaves very badly : an annoying child ▪ a bunch of ill-mannered little *brats* ▪ He is a ***spoiled brat***

2 *US* : the child of a person whose career is in the army, navy, etc. ▪ I was an army/navy/military *brat*.; *also* : the child of a person whose career is in a specified field ▪ His children are typical Hollywood *brats*.

– **brat•ty** /'bræti/ *adj* **brat•ti•er**; **-est** ▪ a *bratty* child – **brat•ti•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

bra•va•do /brə'vɑ:doʊ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : confident or brave talk or behavior that is intended to impress other people ▪ His stories are always told with *bravado*. ▪ I remember his youthful *bravado*.

[1]brave /'breɪv/ *adj* **brav•er**; **-est** : feeling or showing no fear : not afraid ▪ He was a *brave* [=*courageous, fearless*] soldier. ▪ She gave us a *brave* smile. ▪ He lost his *brave* fight against the disease. ▪ She tried to ***put on/up a brave face/front*** [=she tried to appear brave or calm] despite the pain of the injury.

the brave : brave people ▪ the home of *the brave*

– **brave•ly** *adv* ▪ He smiled *bravely* as he stepped in front of the cameras.

[2]brave *verb* **braves**; **braved**; **brav•ing** [+ *obj*] : to face or deal with (something dangerous or unpleasant) ▪ We *braved* [=went out in] the rain without our umbrellas. ▪ Thousands of fans *braved* rush-hour traffic to see the concert. ▪ I had to ***brave the elements*** [=go out in bad weather] to get to work.

[3]brave *noun, pl* **braves** [*count*] *old-fashioned* : a Native American warrior

brave new world *noun* [*singular*] : a situation or area of activity that is created by the development of something completely new and different ▪ The company was slow to enter the *brave new world* of computer technology. — often used to suggest that something is both new and possibly dangerous ▪ Are we ready to face the *brave new world* of human cloning?

brav•ery /'breɪvəri/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the quality that allows someone to do things that are dangerous or frightening : the quality or state of being brave : COURAGE ▪ He received a medal for *bravery*. ▪ She showed great *bravery*. ▪ an act of *bravery* [=a brave act]

bra•vo /'brɑ:voʊ/ *interj* — used to express approval of a performance ▪ Shouts of "*Bravo*!" continued after the curtain fell.

bra•vu•ra /brə'vjurə/ *noun* [*noncount*] : great skill and energy in doing something (such as performing on a stage) — usually used before another noun ▪ a *bravura* performance

brawl /'brɑ:l/ *verb* **brawls**; **brawled**; **brawl•ing** [*no obj*] : to fight noisily in usually a public place ▪ Fans were *brawling* in the streets after the game.

– **brawl** *noun, pl* **brawls** [*count*] ▪ A *brawl* broke out among the fans after the hockey game. ▪ a drunken street *brawl* ▪ He was in a ***barroom brawl*** [=a fight in a bar] – **brawl•er** *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] ▪ Police arrested two of the *brawlers*.

brawn /'brɑ:n/ *noun* [*noncount*]

1 : muscular strength — usually used to compare physical strength to intelligence ▪ When it comes to men, she prefers brains over *brawn*. [=she likes smart men better than muscular ones]

2 *Brit* : HEADCHEESE

– **brawny** /'brɑ:ni/ *adj* **brawn•i•er**; **-est** ▪ his *brawny* [=*muscular*] arms

bray /'breɪ/ *verb* **brays**; **brayed**; **bray•ing**

1 [*no obj*] : to make the loud sound that a donkey makes ▪ The donkey *brayed* loudly (at us) when we approached it. ▪ a *braying* donkey

2 : to speak or laugh in a very loud and unpleasant way [*no obj*] My aunt *brayed* with laughter when I told her what had happened. ▪ He *brayed* about what a great player he was. ▪ a *braying* voice/laugh [+ *obj*] "I'm the best!" he *brayed*.

– **bray** *noun, pl* **brays** [*count*] ▪ the *bray* of a donkey

[1]bra•zen /'breɪzn̩/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : acting or done in a very open and shocking way without shame or embarrassment ▪ He exhibited a *brazen* disregard for other people's feelings. ▪ a *brazen* lie

– **bra•zen•ly** *adv* ▪ She *brazenly* ignored his orders. – **bra•zen•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

[2]brazen *verb* **-zens**; **-zened**; **-zen•ing**

brazen it out : to continue in a confident way without showing shame or embarrassment ▪ Despite the bad pub-

licity, the candidate decided to *brazen it out* and stay in the race.

bra•zier /'breɪʒɚ, *Brit* 'breɪziə/ *noun, pl* **-ziers** [*count*]
1 : a container for holding burning coals
2 *chiefly US* : a device on which food is cooked over high heat

Bra•zil nut /brə'zɪl-/ *noun, pl* ~ **nuts** [*count*] : a long, white nut that grows on a South American tree — called also (*Brit*) *Brazil*; see picture at NUT

[1]breach /'bri:ʧ/ *noun, pl* **breach•es**
1 : a failure to do what is required by a law an agreement or a duty : failure to act in a required or promised way — usually + *of* [*count*] This is clearly a *breach of* the treaty. • He was fined for committing a ***breach of the peace*** [=for making a lot of noise or behaving violently in public; for disorderly conduct] • Many people consider her decision to be a ***breach of trust/confidence*** [*noncount*] They sued him for ***breach of contract*** [=for failing to do what the contract required] • The judge ruled that the doctor's actions were ***in breach of*** her contractual duty.
2 ✧ A ***breach of security*** or a ***security breach*** is an occurrence in which someone is able to get into a place that is guarded or is able to get secret information. • The break-in was a serious *breach of security*. • Allowing such information to be released to the public is considered a *security breach*.
3 [*count*] : a break in friendly relations between people or groups — often + *between* • The *breach between* them developed years ago. • The misunderstanding had caused a *breach between* the families. • The decision caused a *breach between* the two countries.
4 [*count*] : a hole or opening in something (such as a wall) made by breaking through it • They repaired a *breach* in the fence.
into the breach ✧ If you ***step/leap/jump (etc.) into the breach***, you provide help that is badly needed, such as by doing a job when there is no one else available to do it. • He *stepped into the breach* when the company needed new leadership.

[2]breach *verb* **breaches**; **breached**; **breach•ing** [+ *obj*]
1 : to fail to do what is required by (something, such as a law or agreement) : to break or violate (something) • He claims that the city *breached* an agreement by selling the property. • Is he going to *breach* his contract?
2 : to make a hole or opening in (something) • The army *breached* the castle wall.

[1]bread /'brɛd/ *noun, pl* **breads**
1 : a baked food made from a mixture of flour and water [*noncount*] She bakes *bread* every day. • a loaf/slice/piece/hunk of *bread* [*count*] The bakery offers a nice selection of *breads* and pastries. — often used before another noun • *bread* crumbs • a *bread* knife [=a knife used for cutting bread]
2 [*noncount*] *old-fashioned, slang* : MONEY • I took the job because I needed to earn some *bread*. [=(more commonly) *dough*]
break bread : to have a meal together • He received an invitation to *break bread* with the president.
know which side your bread is buttered on *informal* : to know how to act or how to treat others in order to get what you want • He pretends to be impartial, but believe me, he *knows which side his bread is buttered on*.

[2]bread *verb* **breads**; **bread•ed**; **bread•ing** [+ *obj*] : to cover (food) with bread crumbs before cooking it • She *breaded* the pork chops before frying them.
– **breaded** *adj* • She served *breaded* pork chops.

bread and butter *noun* [*singular*] : a dependable source of income or success • Casual clothing has always been the company's *bread and butter*.

bread–and–butter *adj, always used before a noun*
1 : basic and important • *bread-and-butter* economic issues
2 : dependable as a source of income or success • the company's *bread-and-butter* products • His *bread-and-butter* pitch has always been his fastball.

bread•bas•ket /'brɛd,bæskət, *Brit* 'brɛd,bɑ:skət/ *noun, pl* **-kets** [*count*] : a region that provides large amounts of food • the *breadbasket* of the world • The area is becoming the nation's *breadbasket*.

bread•box /'brɛd,bɑ:ks/ *noun, pl* **-box•es** [*count*] *chiefly US* : a container in someone's kitchen where bread and other baked goods are stored to keep them fresh — often used informally to describe the size of something • The entire stereo system is not much ***bigger than a breadbox*** — called also (*Brit*) *bread bin*

bread•fruit /'brɛd,fru:t/ *noun, pl* **-fruit** [*count, noncount*] : a round fruit that resembles bread when it is baked

bread•line /'brɛd,laɪn/ *noun, pl* **-lines**
1 [*count*] *chiefly US* : a line of people who are waiting to receive free food
2 ***the breadline*** *Brit* : the level of income at which someone is considered poor • people living below/near/on *the breadline* [=*the poverty line*]

breadth /'brɛtθ/ *noun* [*noncount*]
1 : the distance from one side to the other side of something : WIDTH • We measured the height, *breadth*, and depth of each piece of furniture. • Its *breadth* is five feet. [=(more commonly) it's five feet wide] — see also HAIR'S BREADTH
2 : the quality of including many things : the wide scope or range of something • I admire his *breadth* of knowledge/experience/achievement. = I admire the *breadth* of his knowledge/experience/achievement.
the length and breadth of see LENGTH

bread•win•ner /'brɛd,wɪnɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ners** [*count*] : a person who earns money to support a family • He had always been the (family) *breadwinner*.

[1]break /'breɪk/ *verb* **breaks**; **broke** /'broʊk/; **bro•ken** /'broʊkən/; **break•ing**
1 : to separate (something) into parts or pieces often in a sudden and forceful or violent way [+ *obj*] She *broke* the cup when she dropped it on the floor. • I *broke* the stick in two/half. = I *broke* the stick into two pieces. • *Break* the chocolate bar into pieces so that everyone can have some. • It is easiest to *break* a chain at its weakest link. [*no obj*] The cup *broke* (into bits/pieces) when it fell on the floor. • A chain will *break* at its weakest link.
2 : to cause (a bone) to separate into two or more pieces [+ *obj*] He fell and *broke* [=*fractured*] his collarbone. • He *broke* his arm in the accident. [=one of the bones in his arm was broken in the accident] • The fall *broke* his arm. [*no obj*] His arm *broke* in three places when he fell.
3 [*no obj*] : to open suddenly especially because of pressure from inside • The blister *broke*. • A bruise forms when a blood vessel *breaks* under the skin. — see also BREAK OPEN (below)
4 a [+ *obj*] : to cause (something, such as a machine) to stop working by damaging it • He *broke* his watch when he dropped it on the floor. • I'm afraid I've *broken* your phone.
b [*no obj*] : to stop working because of being damaged • His watch *broke* when he dropped it on the floor. • The pump recently *broke*. — see also BREAK DOWN (below)
5 : to split or divide (something) *into* smaller units or parts [+ *obj*] The word "singing" can be *broken* (up) *into* the two syllables "sing-" and "-ing." • They *broke* the corporation (up) *into* several smaller companies. [*no obj*] The corporation *broke* (up) *into* several smaller companies. — see also BREAK INTO (below)
6 [+ *obj*] **a** : to go through or make a hole in (a surface, someone's skin, etc.) • There is no risk of infection if the dog's bite did not *break* [=*puncture*] the skin. • A large fish *broke* the surface of the water. **b** : to go through (something) by using force • Use a knife to *break* the seal. — usually used figuratively • The ceremony is to celebrate people who *broke* racial barriers in the music industry. — see also BREAK DOWN (below), BREAK THROUGH (below) **c** : to cut into and turn over the surface of (the ground, soil, etc.) • The farmer uses a plow to *break* the soil. — see also *break ground* at [1]GROUND
7 [+ *obj*] : to fail to do what is required by (a law, a promise, etc.) • She may not have *broken* the law, but she acted wrongly. • You *broke* your promise. • Students who *break* the rules will be punished. • He *broke* the contract by failing to make the payments on time. • You can get fined for *breaking* the speed limit. [=for driving faster than you are legally allowed to drive]
8 a : to destroy or defeat (something) by using force or pressure [+ *obj*] They kept putting pressure on him, but they couldn't *break* his spirit/determination/resistance. • They finally *broke* his will to resist. [*no obj*] His spirit/determination will never *break*. **b** [+ *obj*] : to defeat or ruin (someone) : to cause (someone) to fail or to stop trying or fighting • He swore that he would *break* his rivals/competitors. • They kept putting pressure on him, but they couldn't *break* him. • These huge losses are going to *break* [=*ruin*] me financially! • This film could ***make or break*** her career. [=the success or failure of her career could depend on the success or failure

of this film] — see also BREAK DOWN (below), MAKE-OR-BREAK **c** [*no obj*] : to lose your health, mental or physical strength, or control — usually + *under* ▪ The witness *broke under* questioning. ▪ I was afraid I would *break under* the strain of constant uncertainty. — see also BREAK DOWN (below) **d** [+ *obj*] : to train (a wild animal) to behave in a way that is useful to people ▪ special equipment used to *break* horses

9 [+ *obj*] **a** : to cause the end of (something that is strong or that has continued for a long time) ▪ A group of moderates from both parties are negotiating to *break* the deadlock in Congress. ▪ Many people in the industry were very upset when the government *broke* the strike. ▪ He decided to *break* all ties/links with them. [=to end all connections with them] ▪ She scored a goal in the last minute of the game, *breaking* a 2–2 tie. ▪ It's never easy to *break* [=*kick, give up*] a bad habit. **b** : to cause (someone) to give up a habit — + *of* ▪ His friends have tried everything to *break* him *of* his smoking habit. [=have tried everything to make him stop smoking]

10 [+ *obj*] **a** : to interrupt (something) ▪ The peaceful silence of the evening was *broken* by a sudden shout. ▪ The commotion *broke* my train of thought. ▪ The sudden noise *broke* my concentration. [=made it impossible for me to concentrate] ▪ Sometimes I sing while I'm driving, just to *break* (up) the monotony of my commute. ▪ The horizon line was *broken* only by a few stands of trees in the distance. ▪ The planes ***broke formation*** [=stopped flying together in an organized group] and took off in different directions. — see also BREAK UP 4 (below) **b** : to cause (something, such as a curse or spell) to no longer be effective ▪ a mystic who claimed to be able to *break* curses

11 [*no obj*] : to stop an activity (such as working) for a brief period of time ▪ Let's *break* for lunch. [=let's take a break for lunch; let's temporarily stop working and eat lunch]

12 a [+ *obj*] : to tell (bad news) to someone in a kind or gentle way ▪ I know she'll be very upset when she finds out she didn't get the job, so please try to *break* it to her gently. **b** [+ *obj*] : to make (something, such as news) publicly known for the first time ▪ The local TV station was the first to *break* the news about the President's visit. **c** [*no obj*] *of news* : to become publicly known ▪ The story *broke* yesterday. [=the story was reported for the first time yesterday] ▪ People were shocked when (news of) the scandal first *broke*.

13 [+ *obj*] : to reduce the speed or force of (something) ▪ The bushes beneath the window helped to ***break his fall***. [=helped make his fall less forceful] ▪ She walked straight across the room without ***breaking (her) stride***. [=without pausing or slowing down]

14 [+ *obj*] **a** : to be higher or more than (a specified number, measurement, etc.) ▪ The temperature is expected to *break* 90 (degrees Fahrenheit) today. **b** : to do better than (a record) ▪ She ran a great race and almost *broke* the world record. [=she almost ran the race faster than anyone in the world has ever run it] ▪ He set a record that may never be *broken*. **c** : to have a score that is lower than or higher than (a specified total) ▪ golfers trying to *break* 90 [=to have a score below 90] ▪ bowlers trying to *break* 200 [=to have a score above 200]

15 [+ *obj*] **a** : to find or provide an explanation or solution for (something, such as a criminal case) ▪ The detective finally *broke* [=*solved*] the case. ▪ The detective found the evidence that *broke* the case. **b** : to find the meaning of (a secret code) ▪ A team of experts was finally able to *break* the code and decipher the meaning of the message.

16 [*no obj*] **a** *of the weather* : to change by becoming rainy, clear, cool, etc., after a long time ▪ waiting for the weather to *break* ▪ The heat wave should finally *break* [=*end*] tomorrow. **b** *of clouds* : to separate so that the sky or sun can be seen ▪ The clouds *broke* and the fog dissipated, revealing blue sky above. **c** *of a storm* : to start suddenly ▪ Everyone ran to get indoors when the storm *broke*. [=when it began to rain]

17 [*no obj*] *literary* : to begin when the sun rises ▪ They left just as ***day was breaking***. [=just as the sun was rising] ▪ The ***dawn was breaking***. — see also DAYBREAK

18 [*no obj*] **a** : to begin running quickly ▪ Everyone *broke* [=*dashed, ran*] for cover. **b** : to stop fighting and run away ▪ When the enemy charged, our troops *broke* and ran.

19 [+ *obj*] **a** : to give smaller bills or coins for (a large bill) ▪ Can you *break* [=*change*] a $20 bill for me? **b** : to use (a large bill) to pay for something that costs much less than the value of the bill ▪ I didn't want to *break* a $20 bill just to buy something for a dollar.

20 [*no obj*] *of a wave* : to curl over and fall onto or near land ▪ the sound of waves *breaking* against/over/on the rocks

21 [*no obj*] **a** *of someone's voice* : to change sharply in tone or pitch because of strong emotion ▪ Her voice was *breaking* with emotion as she said goodbye. **b** *of a boy's voice* : to change from the high voice of a boy to the lower voice of a man ▪ an adolescent boy whose voice is *breaking*

22 [*no obj*] *sports, of a thrown or struck ball* : to turn or curve ▪ The putt *broke* to the left as it neared the hole. ▪ a pitch that *breaks* away from the batter ▪ The pitcher threw a ***breaking ball***. [=a pitch that curves]

23 *tennis* : to win against (an opponent who is serving) [+ *obj*] The challenger *broke* the champion in the final set. = The challenger *broke* the champion's serve in the final set. [*no obj*] The challenger *broke* in the final set but the champion *broke* back to even the score.

24 [*no obj*] : to happen or develop ▪ For the team to succeed, everything has to *break* right for them. [=for the team to succeed, they have to be lucky] ▪ Things have been *breaking* [=*going*] well for the company in the past six months.

break a leg see ¹LEG

break a sweat see ²SWEAT

break away [*phrasal verb*] **1** : to get away from someone or something especially by using force or effort ▪ Large pieces of the rock ledge have *broken away*. [=*broken free*] — usually + *from* ▪ He *broke away* [=*broke free/loose*] *from* his captors and escaped. ▪ She *broke away* [=*pulled away*] *from* the other runners to win the race. — often used figuratively ▪ The company has *broken away from* the competition. ▪ young people *breaking away from* traditional values **2** : to separate or become separate from a larger group, country, etc. ▪ Three members of the band *broke away* and formed their own group. — usually + *from* ▪ a faction that has *broken away from* the main political party — see also BREAKAWAY

break bread see ¹BREAD

break camp see ¹CAMP

break cover see ²COVER

break down [*phrasal verb*] **1 a** *of a machine* : to stop working properly ▪ Our car *broke down* on the highway. ▪ This old motorcycle is constantly *breaking down*. — see also ¹BREAK 4 (above) **b** : to fail or stop usually in a complete and sudden way ▪ Negotiations have *broken down*. [=*collapsed*] ▪ The government's argument *broke down* completely when new evidence came to light. ▪ Their marriage had *broken down* [=*failed*], and there was nothing to do about it. **2 a** : to become overwhelmed by strong emotions ▪ She *broke down* and started to cry. = She ***broke down in tears***. — see also ¹BREAK 8c (above) **b** ***break down or break (someone) down or break down (someone)*** : to lose or cause (someone) to lose strength or the ability to resist or fight ▪ The prisoner finally *broke down* under intensive questioning. ▪ She finally *broke down* and got a cell phone. [=she bought a cell phone after resisting the desire to buy one for a long time] ▪ Intensive questioning finally *broke* the prisoner *down*. — see also ¹BREAK 8b (above) **3** ***break down or break (something) down or break down (something)*** **a** : to become separated or to separate (something) into simpler substances ▪ The foods you eat *break down* in the body's digestive system. ▪ The body's digestive system *breaks* food *down*. ▪ Water can be *broken down* into hydrogen and oxygen through electrolysis. = Water can *break down* into hydrogen and oxygen through electrolysis. **b** : to be able to be divided or to divide (something) *into* parts or groups ▪ The report *breaks down into* three sections. = The report is *broken down into* three sections. [=the report has three sections] ▪ The author has *broken down* the nation's history *into* three distinct periods. **4** ***break (something) down or break down (something)*** : to use force to push (something) to the ground ▪ *break* a door *down* ▪ *break down* a barrier — sometimes used figuratively ▪ They are working to *break down* legal barriers to integration. — see also BREAKDOWN

break even : to take in as much money as you spend : to operate without either a loss or a profit ▪ After years of losing money the company is starting to *break even* and hopes to make a profit soon. — see also BREAK-EVEN

break faith with see FAITH

break free : to become able to move or escape by using force or effort ▪ The prisoner struggled to *break free*. : to get away from someone or something that holds or limits you — often + *from* or *of* ▪ She wanted to *break free from* the constraints of her middle-class life. ▪ an animal struggling to *break free of* a trap

break from [*phrasal verb*] ***break from (someone or something)*** : to end a relationship, connection, or agreement with (someone or something) ▪ She recently *broke from* [=*broke with*] the organization she helped found. ▪ *breaking from* [=*breaking with*] tradition/stereotypes

break ground see ¹GROUND

break in [*phrasal verb*] **1** : to enter a house, building, etc., illegally ▪ Someone tried to *break in* while we were away. — see also BREAK INTO 1 (below), BREAK-IN **2** : to interrupt or disturb someone or something ▪ I was listening to my favorite radio program when a reporter *broke in* with news about a storm. ▪ We were having a chat when he rudely *broke in* (on it). — see also BREAK INTO 4 (below) **3** ***break in or break (someone) in or break in (someone)*** : to start or help (someone) to start a new activity, job, etc. ▪ Baseball was very different when he first *broke in* [=started playing] as a catcher in 1962. ▪ The job involves a wide variety of tasks, so we try to *break* new employees *in* gradually. ▪ The band is *breaking in* a new backup singer. **4** ***break (something) in or break in (something)*** **a** : to use (something, such as a new pair of shoes) for a period of time so that it becomes comfortable ▪ The shoes were tight when she first got them, so she *broke* them *in* by wearing them around the house for a few days. **b** : to operate (a new machine) carefully for a period of time until it is ready for regular use ▪ You shouldn't drive a new car too fast while you're *breaking* it *in*.

break into [*phrasal verb*] ***break into (something)*** **1** : to enter (a house, building, etc.) illegally and especially by using force ▪ Someone tried to *break into* our house while we were away. — see also BREAK IN 1 (above) **2** : to begin to do or have (something) suddenly ▪ She *broke into* tears. [=she suddenly began to cry] ▪ The audience *broke into* applause. [=the audience suddenly began applauding] ▪ His face *broke into* a smile. [=he suddenly smiled] ▪ The horse *broke into* a gallop. [=the horse suddenly began to gallop] ▪ She *broke into* song. [=she suddenly began to sing] **3** : to enter or get started in (something, such as a profession) ▪ I knew her when she was a young actress trying to *break into* show business. **4** : to interrupt (something) ▪ The network *broke into* the program with a special news report. — see also BREAK IN 2 (above)

break loose **1** : to suddenly become loose : to suddenly stop being attached to something ▪ One of the shutters *broke loose* during the storm. **2** : to get away from someone or something by using force or effort ▪ The prisoner *broke loose* [=*broke free*] and ran away. — often + *from* ▪ The prisoner *broke loose from* the guards. ▪ She wants to *break loose from* the constraints of her middle-class life. — see also *all hell breaks loose* at HELL

break new ground see ¹GROUND

break off [*phrasal verb*] **1** ***break off or break off (something) or break (something) off or break (something) off (something)*** : to become separated or cause (something) to become separated because of force or violence ▪ The piece of plaster *broke off* easily. ▪ The handle *broke off* when I accidentally dropped the cup. ▪ I accidentally *broke* the cup's handle *off*. = I accidentally *broke* the handle *off* the cup. ▪ I *broke* [=*tore*] a piece of bread *off* (the loaf) and ate it. **2** ***break off or break off (something)*** : to stop or end suddenly or cause (something) to stop or end suddenly ▪ The speaker *broke off* (speaking) in the middle of a sentence. ▪ At that point the recording suddenly *breaks off*. [=*ends*] ▪ The two countries have *broken off* diplomatic relations. ▪ The negotiations resumed soon after they were *broken off*. ▪ They had a fight and *broke off* [=*called off*] their engagement.

break open [*phrasal verb*] ***break open or break open (something) or break (something) open*** : to open or to cause (something) to open suddenly ▪ The pods *broke open* and the seeds scattered on the wind. ▪ The police *broke open* the door. ▪ The burglars *broke open* the locked safe. — see also ¹BREAK 3 (above)

break out [*phrasal verb*] **1** : to begin happening suddenly ▪ A fire *broke out* in the kitchen. ▪ A riot *broke out* in the prison. ▪ There is a danger that war could *break out* soon. **2 a** : to suddenly begin to have sweat, a rash, etc., on your skin ▪ He ***broke out in a sweat*** [=he began to sweat] ▪ Eating strawberries makes her ***break out in hives*** = Eating strawberries makes her *break out*. **b** : to appear on the skin suddenly ▪ Sweat *broke out* on his forehead. ▪ A rash *broke out* on her skin. **3** : to escape from a prison, jail, etc. ▪ Six prisoners were caught attempting to *break out*. — often + *of* ▪ Six prisoners attempted to *break out of* the jail. — often used figuratively ▪ The team is trying to *break out of* its slump. [=is trying to end its slump] ▪ We need to *break out of* the financial rut we're in. **4** ***break (something) out or break out (something)*** : to take (something) from the place where it is stored so that it can be used ▪ We *broke out* the champagne to celebrate our victory. — see also BREAKOUT, OUTBREAK

break rank see ¹RANK

break someone's heart see HEART

break step see ¹STEP

break the back of see ¹BACK

break the bank see ¹BANK

break the ice see ¹ICE

break the mold see ¹MOLD

break through [*phrasal verb*] ***break through or break through (something)*** **1** : to use force to get through (something, such as a barrier) ▪ The enemy attacked our defenses but they weren't able to *break through*. ▪ The enemy finally *broke through* our defenses and defeated us. ▪ The prisoners *broke through* the wall and escaped. — sometimes used figuratively ▪ The organization is committed to *breaking through* the barriers of poverty. — see also ¹BREAK 6b (above) **2** *of the sun* : to shine through (clouds) ▪ The sun finally began to *break through*. = The sun finally began to *break through* the clouds.

break up [*phrasal verb*] **1** ***break up or break (something) up or break up (something)*** **a** : to separate into parts or pieces or cause (something) to separate into parts or pieces ▪ The asteroid *broke up* [=*disintegrated*] when it hit the Earth's atmosphere. ▪ Enzymes help *break up* protein molecules. ▪ *break up* a large estate **b** : to end or cause (something) to end ▪ The demonstration *broke up* when the police arrived. ▪ The party began to *break up* shortly after midnight. ▪ The police *broke up* the demonstration. ▪ He got hurt while trying to *break up* a fight. ▪ *break up* a terrorist organization **2** ***break up*** : to end a romantic relationship, marriage, etc. ▪ They dated for years but recently *broke up*. ▪ I hear that he and his wife have *broken up*. = I hear that their marriage has *broken up*. — often + *with* ▪ He *broke up with* his girlfriend. **3** ***break up or break (someone) up*** *US, informal* : to begin laughing or cause (someone) to begin laughing suddenly and in a way that is difficult to control ▪ I always *break up* [=*crack up*] when I hear that joke. ▪ Everyone *broke up* [=*burst into laughter, busted out laughing*] when they saw what he was wearing. ▪ That joke always *breaks me up*. [=*cracks me up*] **4** ***break (something) up or break up (something)*** **a** : to change the regular quality or appearance of (something) ▪ *break up* a dull routine ▪ A chimney *breaks up* the line of the level roof. ▪ *break up* a text with pictures — see also ¹BREAK 10 (above) **b** : to separate the parts of (something) so that it is not complete ▪ The seller was unwilling to *break up* the dining room set by selling one of the chairs. ▪ The owner *broke up* the team by trading many of the best players. **5** ***break up*** *Brit, of a school* : to come to the end of a period of instruction (such as a term) ▪ School *broke up* for the summer last Friday. — see also BREAKUP

break wind see ¹WIND

break with [*phrasal verb*] ***break with (someone or something)*** : to end a relationship, connection, or agreement with (someone or something) ▪ He *broke with* his former friends and colleagues when he decided to support the conservative candidate. ▪ a strong desire to *break with* tradition/the past ▪ A number of people have *broken with* the church over this issue.

²break *noun, pl* **breaks**

1 [*count*] **a** : a crack, hole, etc., that is caused by damage, injury, or pressure ▪ The tank is reinforced to prevent *breaks* and leaks. ▪ The *break* [=*fracture*] in her arm will take months to heal. ▪ Watch out for *breaks* [=(more commonly) *cracks*] in the ice. **b** : an opening or space *in* something ▪ There was a *break* [=*gap*] *in* the clouds. : an opening that makes it possible for someone or something to enter or pass through something ▪ There was a *break in* the hedge/fence. ▪ We waited for a *break in* the traffic.

2 [*count*] : something that causes a change or interruption ▪ She gets upset over any little *break* in her routine. [=anything that changes/interrupts her routine] ▪ The fields extend for miles without a *break*.

3 [*count*] **a** : a time when something stops ▪ It has rained for five days without a *break*. [=it has been raining constantly for five days] ▪ We chatted during a *break* in the game. ▪ It

rained all day. We waited for ***a break in the weather*** [=we waited for a time when the rain stopped], but it never came. **b :** a brief period of time during which someone stops an activity ▪ I'm tired. Let's ***take a break***. [=let's stop doing whatever we are doing for a short period of time] ▪ It was a long drive, but we *took* lots of *breaks*. [=we briefly stopped driving many times] ▪ a ***bathroom break*** [=a brief period of time when you stop doing something in order to use a bathroom]; *especially* **:** a brief period of time during which a worker is allowed to rest, eat, etc., instead of working ▪ All employees are entitled to two *breaks* during the workday. ▪ We've been working all day without a *break*. ▪ It's only five minutes until ***break time***. [=the time when workers are supposed to stop working for a brief period of time] — see also COFFEE BREAK, LUNCH BREAK **c :** a longer period of time when someone is not working or doing some other activity ▪ The long weekend provided her with a much-needed *break* (from her job). **d :** a time when many people are not working or going to school because of a holiday, vacation, etc. ▪ She went home to visit her parents during (the) winter *break*. ▪ What are your plans for (the) Thanksgiving *break*? — see also SPRING BREAK

4 [*count*] **:** a planned interruption in a radio or television program ▪ a *break* for a commercial = a commercial *break* ▪ We'll be back with more after the *break*. — see also STATION BREAK

5 [*singular*] **:** a sudden fast run **:** DASH ▪ The runner ***made a break for*** second base. [=the runner suddenly ran toward second base]; *especially* **:** a fast run by someone who is trying to escape ▪ The prisoner *made a* (sudden) *break for* the door. ▪ The prisoner ***made a break for it/freedom*** and got away. — see also JAILBREAK

6 [*count*] **:** a situation or event that is lucky or unlucky ▪ a series of unlucky/bad *breaks* ▪ Finding a hotel with a vacancy and low prices was a lucky/good *break* for us.; *especially* **:** a lucky situation or event that makes success possible ▪ She's still hoping to get her big/lucky *break* in show business. ▪ She got the *breaks* she needed to succeed. ▪ She gets all the *breaks*. [=she is very lucky] ▪ For the team to succeed, all the *breaks* will have to go their way. [=they will have to be lucky] ▪ (*US*) I just can't seem to ***catch a break***. [=I am unlucky; I never have good luck] ✧ Informal expressions like ***those are the breaks*** and ***that's the breaks*** mean that something bad or unlucky should be thought of or accepted as the kind of thing that often happens to people. ▪ I'm disappointed that I didn't get the job, but *those are the breaks*. I'll keep trying.

7 [*count*] **:** something that helps a particular person or group ▪ Can you give me a *break* on the price? = Can I get a *break* on the price? [=can you lower the price for me?] ▪ People with small children are being given a ***tax break***. [=are being required to pay less in taxes than other people]

8 [*singular*] **a :** a sudden ending of a relationship ▪ The crisis has caused a *break* (in diplomatic relations) between the two countries. ▪ If you don't want to keep dating him, you should just ***make a clean break*** [=you should end your relationship quickly] instead of dragging it out. ▪ She talked about leaving her husband for years, but she never found the courage to ***make the break***. **b :** a change from what was done before — usually + *with* or *from* ▪ We need to *make a clean break with* the past. [=we need to stop doing things as they were done in the past and start doing them in a completely new way] ▪ The company has made a sharp *break with* tradition. ▪ Her latest novel marks a complete *break with/from* her earlier fiction. [=her latest novel is completely different from her earlier fiction]

9 [*noncount*] *literary* — used in the phrase ***break of day*** to refer to the time of morning when the sun can first be seen ▪ We left at (the) *break of day*. [=(more commonly) *dawn, sunrise, daybreak*]

10 [*count*] **:** a sharp change in the tone or pitch of someone's voice ▪ There was a *break* [=(more commonly) *crack*] in her voice as she said goodbye.

11 [*noncount*] *sports* **:** a curve in the path of a thrown or hit ball ▪ The batter was fooled completely by the *break* on the pitch. ▪ The putt had a lot of *break*. [=the putt curved a lot]

12 [*count*] *tennis* **:** the act defeating an opponent who is serving ▪ a service *break*

give me a break *informal* **1** — used to tell someone to stop bothering you or treating you unfairly ▪ "Aren't you finished yet?" "*Give me a break*! I only started 10 minutes ago!" **2** — used to say that you do not believe or are disgusted about what someone has said or done ▪ "He says he went Harvard." "*Give me a break*! I doubt he even graduated from high school!" ▪ He wants more money? *Give me a break*! [=it's ridiculous/outrageous that he wants more money]

give (someone) a break **:** to stop treating (someone) in a strict or harsh way ▪ Don't criticize him so much. He's doing the best he can. Why don't you *give him a break*?

break•able /ˈbreɪkəbəl/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] **:** possible to break **:** able to be broken ▪ an easily *breakable* object ▪ a world record that may not be *breakable* — opposite UNBREAKABLE

– breakable *noun, pl* **breakables** [*count*] ▪ *Breakables* [=objects that can be broken easily; fragile objects] should be handled with care.

break•age /ˈbreɪkɪʤ/ *noun, pl* **-ag•es :** the act of breaking or being broken [*noncount*] The cups are very fragile and are prone to *breakage*. [=they break easily] ▪ The pots are transported carefully to reduce the risk of *breakage*. ▪ *breakage* of glass [*count*] The pots are transported carefully to reduce the number of *breakages*.

break•away /ˈbreɪkəˌweɪ/ *adj, always used before a noun* **:** having become separate from a larger group, country, etc. **:** having broken away ▪ A *breakaway* faction formed a new party. ▪ a *breakaway* republic/province — see also *break away* at ¹BREAK

break dancing *noun* [*noncount*] **:** a type of dancing in which a dancer performs very athletic movements that involve touching the ground with various parts of the body (such as the head or back)

– break dancer *noun, pl* **~ -ers** [*count*]

break•down /ˈbreɪkˌdaʊn/ *noun, pl* **-downs**

1 : a failure of a machine to function **:** an occurrence in which a machine (such as a car) stops working [*count*] We had a *breakdown* on the highway. [=our car broke down on the highway; our car stopped working on the highway] ▪ The factory has had frequent equipment *breakdowns*. [*noncount*] Frequent equipment *breakdown* [=(more commonly) *failure*] has been a problem at the factory.

2 a [*count*] **:** the failure of a relationship or of an effort to discuss something ▪ There has been a *breakdown* of/in negotiations. [=negotiations have broken down; negotiations have failed] ▪ Both sides are to blame for the *breakdown* in communication. ▪ The irretrievable *breakdown* of a marriage can be grounds for divorce. **b :** a failure that prevents a system from working properly [*count*] trying to prevent a *breakdown* of the health-care system [*noncount*] trying to prevent *breakdown* of the health-care system ▪ Analysts predict that the country is headed for economic *breakdown*. [=*meltdown*]

3 [*count*] **:** a sudden failure of mental or physical health that makes someone unable to live normally ▪ He suffered/had a *breakdown* after his wife died. ▪ a total physical/mental *breakdown* [=*collapse*] — see also NERVOUS BREAKDOWN

4 : the process or result of showing the different parts of something in order to understand it more clearly [*count*] Doing/Providing a *breakdown* of the statistics into categories will take time. ▪ I want a detailed *breakdown* of the statistics into categories. [*noncount*] The library's database enables *breakdown* by title, author, and genre.

5 [*noncount*] **:** the process or result of separating a substance into simpler parts ▪ the *breakdown* of water into hydrogen and oxygen ▪ observing cell/tissue/protein *breakdown* ▪ a substance that resists *breakdown* — see also *break down* at ¹BREAK

breakdown lane *noun, pl* **~ lanes** [*count*] *US* **:** an area along the side of a highway where vehicles are able to stop for an emergency

breakdown truck *or* **breakdown lorry** *noun, pl* **~ trucks** *or* **~ lorries** [*count*] *Brit* **:** TOW TRUCK

break•er /ˈbreɪkɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]

1 : someone or something that breaks something ▪ a *breaker* of records = a record-*breaker* ▪ a rule *breaker* — see also CIRCUIT BREAKER, ICEBREAKER

2 : a wave that is curling over and falling onto the shore, rocks, etc. **:** a breaking wave — usually plural ▪ We could hear the *breakers* crashing on the shore.

break–even /ˈbreɪkˈiːvən/ *adj, always used before a noun* **:** having equal costs and income ▪ After years of losing money the company has finally reached the ***break-even point*** [=the point at which the company earns as much as it spends] and we hope to make a profit soon. — see also *break even* at ¹BREAK

¹break•fast /ˈbrɛkfəst/ *noun, pl* **-fasts :** the first meal of the day [*count*] a big/good/hearty *breakfast* ▪ a ***working/busi-***

ness breakfast [=a breakfast during which you talk with someone about business matters] ▪ (*Brit*) a ***cooked breakfast*** [=a breakfast that includes cooked foods, such as eggs and meat] [*noncount*] I had pancakes for *breakfast*. ▪ Did you have/eat *breakfast* before you left? ▪ We relaxed/chatted/dawdled over *breakfast*. — often used before another noun ▪ *breakfast* cereals ▪ They sat at the *breakfast* table. — see also BED-AND-BREAKFAST, CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

a dog's breakfast see [1]DOG

[2]breakfast *verb* **-fasts**; **-fast•ed**; **-fast•ing** [*no obj*] : to eat breakfast ▪ We *breakfasted* on cereal and toast. ▪ She likes to *breakfast* early.

break–in /ˈbreɪkˌɪn/ *noun, pl* **-ins** [*count*] : the act or crime of illegally entering a house, building, etc., especially by using force ▪ There was an attempted *break-in* at our house while we were away. — see also *break in* at [1]BREAK

breaking and entering *noun* [*noncount*] *law* : the crime of illegally entering a house, building, etc., especially by using force ▪ The thief was arrested and charged with *breaking and entering*.

breaking point *noun*

the breaking point (*US*) *or Brit* ***breaking point*** **1** : the time when a person can no longer accept or deal with a situation because of too much pressure or stress ▪ My nerves were at *the breaking point*. = I had just about reached *the breaking point*. ▪ My boss is pushing me to *the breaking point*. **2** : the time when a situation has become so difficult, dangerous, etc., that it cannot continue ▪ Tensions between the two groups had reached *the breaking point*.

break•neck /ˈbreɪkˈnɛk/ *adj, always used before a noun* : very fast : dangerously fast ▪ driving at *breakneck* speed

[1]break•out /ˈbreɪkˌaʊt/ *noun, pl* **-outs** [*count*] : an escape from a prison, jail, etc. — used especially to describe an escape by a group of prisoners ▪ Police report that three people were killed during an attempted *breakout* (from the prison). ▪ a prison *breakout* — see also *break out* at [1]BREAK

[2]breakout *adj, always used before a noun, US* : having, causing, or marked by sudden and great success that comes usually after a time without much success ▪ The company had a *breakout* year last year, tripling its profits from the previous year. ▪ an actor's *breakout* role [=the role that makes an actor famous and successful]

break•through /ˈbreɪkˌθru:/ *noun, pl* **- throughs** [*count*]

1 : a sudden increase in knowledge, understanding, etc. : an important discovery that happens after trying for a long time to understand or explain something ▪ Researchers say they have made/achieved a major *breakthrough* in cancer treatment. ▪ a scientific *breakthrough* ▪ The police have announced a *breakthrough* in the murder case. — sometimes used before another noun ▪ *breakthrough* ideas/products

2 : a person's first important success ▪ This job could be the *breakthrough* she's been waiting for. — sometimes used before another noun ▪ a *breakthrough* performance/role/album — see also *break through* at [1]BREAK

break•up /ˈbreɪkˌʌp/ *noun, pl* **-ups**

1 : the end of a relationship, marriage, etc. [*count*] Money problems often lead to marital *breakups*. ▪ She's just gone through a bad/painful *breakup* with her boyfriend. [*noncount*] He began drinking heavily following the *breakup* of his marriage. ▪ a couple heading for marital *breakup*

2 [*noncount*] : the separation of something into smaller parts or pieces ▪ What caused the *breakup* of the Roman Empire? ▪ the *breakup* of a monopoly ▪ the *breakup* of an asteroid as it hits the Earth's atmosphere — see also *break up* at [1]BREAK

break•wa•ter /ˈbreɪkˌwɑ:tɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ters** [*count*] : a wall that is built out into the sea to protect a harbor or beach from the force of waves

bream /ˈbrɪm, ˈbri:m/ *noun, pl* **bream** [*count, noncount*] : a kind of fish that people catch for food

[1]breast /ˈbrɛst/ *noun, pl* **breasts**

1 [*count*] : either one of the two soft parts on a woman's chest that produce milk when she has a baby — often used before another noun ▪ *breast* cancer ▪ *breast* tissue/milk — see picture at HUMAN

2 [*count*] **a** *old-fashioned + literary* : the front part of a person's body between the neck and the stomach : CHEST ▪ She clasped the child to her *breast*. [=*bosom*] ▪ My *breast* heaved with emotion. **b** *literary* : the chest thought of as the place where emotions are felt ▪ Dark thoughts lurked within his *breast*. [=*heart*]

3 a [*count*] : the front part of a bird's body below the neck ▪ a bird with an orange *breast* — see picture at BIRD **b** : meat from the front part of a bird's or animal's body [*noncount*] I ordered the grilled *breast* of chicken. ▪ a few slices of turkey *breast* ▪ *breast* of lamb/veal [*count*] Do you prefer a *breast* or a leg?

4 [*count*] : the part of a piece of clothing that covers a person's chest ▪ the *breast* of a jacket — usually used before another noun ▪ He kept a watch in his *breast* pocket.

make a clean breast of : to speak openly and honestly about (something that you have previously lied about or kept secret) ▪ I decided to *make a clean breast of* it/things and admit that I was to blame.

– **breast•ed** /ˈbrɛstəd/ *adj* — used in combination ▪ a red-*breasted* bird [=a bird with a red breast] ▪ bare-*breasted* women — see also DOUBLE-BREASTED, SINGLE-BREASTED

[2]breast *verb* **breasts**; **breast•ed**; **breast•ing** [+ *obj*] *formal* : to push against or move through (something) with your chest forward ▪ I was at the race's finish line to see the winner *breast* the tape. — sometimes used figuratively ▪ a boat *breasting* the waves

breast•bone /ˈbrɛstˌboʊn/ *noun, pl* **-bones** [*count*] : a flat, narrow bone in the middle of the chest to which the ribs are connected — called also *sternum*; see picture at HUMAN

breast–feed /ˈbrɛstˌfi:d/ *verb* **-feeds**; **-fed** /-ˌfɛd/; **-feeding** : to feed a baby from a mother's breast [*no obj*] mothers who *breast-feed* [+ *obj*] mothers who *breast-feed* [=*nurse, suckle*] their infants ▪ Only one of her children was *breast-fed*. — compare BOTTLE-FEED

breast•plate /ˈbrɛstˌpleɪt/ *noun, pl* **-plates** [*count*] : a piece of metal that covers a person's chest and that was part of the protective clothing (called armor) that soldiers wore in the past

breast•stroke /ˈbrɛstˌstroʊk/ *noun* [*singular*] : a way of swimming in which the swimmer's face is in the water and the arms move in a large motion from front to back as the feet kick outward; *also* : a race in which the swimmers do the breaststroke ▪ I'll be competing in the 50-meter *breaststroke*.

breath /ˈbrɛθ/ *noun, pl* **breaths**

1 [*noncount*] : the air that you take into your lungs and send out from your lungs when you breathe : air that is inhaled and exhaled in breathing ▪ gum that freshens your *breath* ▪ His *breath* smells like garlic. = He has garlic *breath*. ▪ It's so cold outside that I can see my *breath*. ▪ We could smell the alcohol ***on his breath***. [=his breath smelled of alcohol] ▪ He has ***bad breath***. [=breath that smells unpleasant] — sometimes used before another noun ▪ Would you like a *breath* mint? [=a candy used to make breath smell better] — see also BREATH TEST

2 a [*noncount*] : the ability to breathe freely ▪ He was ***fighting/struggling for breath***. [=he was having a lot of difficulty breathing] ▪ My mad dash for the bus left me ***gasping for breath***. ✧ To ***catch your breath*** or (*Brit*) ***get your breath back*** is to rest until you are able to breathe normally. ▪ Give me a moment to *catch my breath*. ✧ If you are ***out of breath***, you are breathing very hard because you have been running or doing hard physical work. ▪ I'm a little *out of breath* from walking up all those stairs. ✧ Someone who is ***short of breath*** or who has ***shortness of breath*** has difficulty breathing in enough air especially because of a physical or medical condition. ▪ The patient complains that he's *short of breath*. ▪ The doctor asked if I had been experiencing *shortness of breath* lately. **b** [*count*] : an amount of air that you take into your lungs ▪ I took/drew a long *breath* before speaking again. ▪ The patient was only able to take shallow *breaths*. [=only able to take in small amounts of air] ▪ ***Take a deep breath***. [=breathe deeply; take a lot of air into your lungs] ▪ (*US*) I've barely had time to (stop and/to) ***take a breath*** since they got here. = (*Brit*) I've barely had time to ***draw breath*** since they got here. [=I have not been able to pause and rest] ▪ She recited the whole list ***in one breath***. [=she recited it without stopping to breathe] ▪ her ***last/dying breath*** [=the breath that she took just before she died] ✧ If you say two different things ***in the same breath***, or if you say one thing and then something else ***in the next breath***, it means that you say these things very close together. ▪ It's unusual to hear "promotions" mentioned *in the same breath* as "layoffs." ▪ She praises their work, then criticizes them *in the next breath*. [=then immediately criticizes them] ✧ If someone says that you are ***wasting your breath*** or tells you to ***save your breath*** or to ***not waste your breath***, it means that the things you say will not make someone behave or think differently and that you should not

bother to try. ▪ He begged her to go with him, but she told him he was *wasting his breath*. ▪ You're not going to get him to stop drinking, so *don't waste your breath*.

3 [*count*] : a slight breeze — usually singular ▪ a hot day with scarcely a ***breath of wind***

4 [*singular*] : a very small amount of something ▪ a faint *breath* [=*hint*] *of* scandal ▪ There was never even the slightest *breath* [=*suggestion*] *of* suspicion.

a breath of fresh air **1** : clean or cool outside air after you have been in a building for a period of time ▪ We went outside to get *a breath of fresh air*. **2** : someone or something that is different in a way that is interesting, exciting, enjoyable, etc. ▪ His unusual outlook is *a breath of fresh air*. ▪ After dealing for so long with a difficult boss, our new supervisor is *a breath of fresh air*.

hold your breath **1** : to keep the air that you have breathed in your lungs for a short time instead of breathing out ▪ How long can you *hold your breath*? **2** *informal* — used to say that you do not believe that something will happen soon or at all ▪ He says he'll do it, but ***I'm not holding my breath*** [=I doubt he will do it] ▪ "She promised to pay me tomorrow." "Well, ***don't hold your breath***" [=do not expect her to pay you tomorrow]

take your breath away ✧ Something that *takes your breath away* is extremely exciting, beautiful, or surprising. ▪ The acrobatic skill of the dancers *took my breath away*.

under your breath ✧ If you say something *under your breath*, you say it quietly so that it is difficult to hear. ▪ We heard her mutter something *under her breath*.

with bated breath see BATED

Breath•a•lyz•er (*chiefly US*) *or Brit* **Breath•a•ly•ser** /ˈbrɛθəˌlaɪzɚ/ *trademark* — used for a device that police use to test someone's breath in order to measure how much alcohol is in that person's blood

breathe /ˈbri:ð/ *verb* **breathes**; **breathed**; **breath•ing**

1 : to move air into and out of your lungs : to inhale and exhale [*no obj*] Relax and *breathe* deeply. ▪ He was *breathing* hard from running. ▪ The patient suddenly stopped *breathing*. ▪ I can hardly *breathe* with all this smoke. [+ *obj*] He wants to live where he can *breathe* clean/fresh air.

2 a : to send (something) out from your lungs through your mouth or nose [+ *obj*] a dragon that *breathes* fire — often + *out* ▪ *breathing out* [=*exhaling*] carbon dioxide [*no obj*] He *breathed* [=*blew*] on the glass and wiped it clean. — often + *out* ▪ *Breathe out* through your nose. **b** : to take (something) into your lungs through your mouth or nose [+ *obj*] You shouldn't be *breathing* [=*inhaling*] those fumes. ▪ People usually contract the virus by *breathing* contaminated air. — often + *in* ▪ You shouldn't be *breathing in* those fumes. [*no obj*] *Breathe* deeply and then exhale. — usually + *in* ▪ *Breathe in* through your nose.

3 [*no obj*] : to be alive ▪ I'll never give up as long as I'm still *breathing*. ▪ a living, *breathing* human being

4 [*no obj*] : to pause and rest before continuing ▪ We had barely stopped to *breathe* before we were on the go again.

5 [+ *obj*] : to bring (something) *into* a thing ▪ City leaders hope the project will *breathe* vitality/energy *into* the downtown. ▪ Their leadership ***breathed new life into*** the movement. [=gave new energy to the movement]

6 [*no obj*] : to feel able to think or act freely ▪ I need some room to *breathe*. = I need some *breathing* room/space.

7 [*no obj*] **a** : to allow air to pass through ▪ a fabric that *breathes* **b** : to be cooled or refreshed by air that passes through clothing ▪ Cotton clothing lets your skin *breathe*.

8 [+ *obj*] : to say (something) very quietly ▪ "It's beautiful," she *breathed*. — usually used in the phrase ***breathe a word*** ▪ Don't *breathe a word* of/about this to anyone! [=do not say anything about this to anyone]

9 [*no obj*] *of wine* : to develop a better flavor because of contact with air ▪ Open the bottle a few minutes before you want to drink it so that the wine can *breathe*.

breathe a sigh of relief : to relax because something you have been worrying about is not a problem or danger anymore : to feel relieved ▪ We all *breathed a sigh of relief* when we heard that they were safe.

breathe down someone's neck **1** : to chase after someone closely ▪ The cops were *breathing down our necks*. **2** : to watch someone carefully and constantly ▪ His parents are always *breathing down his neck*.

breathe easy *or* ***breathe easier*** *or* ***breathe easily*** *or* ***breathe freely*** : to feel relief from pressure, danger, etc. ▪ I'll *breathe easier* once this whole ordeal is over. ▪ You can *breathe easy* knowing that your children are safe.

breathe your last see 4LAST

live and breathe ✧ If you *live and breathe* something, you spend a great deal of time, thought, or effort on that thing. ▪ She *lives and breathes* music. ▪ They *live and breathe* their work.

– **breath•able** /ˈbri:ðəbəl/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ a *breathable* fabric [=a fabric that allows air to pass through]

– **breathing** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ Her *breathing* is heavy/shallow/labored. — often used before another noun ▪ We'll begin with some *breathing* exercises. ▪ He has *breathing* problems. — see also *heavy breathing* at 1HEAVY

breath•er /ˈbri:ðɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]

1 : a pause for rest : BREAK ▪ Let's take a *breather*. ▪ He decided to give them a *breather*.

2 : someone or something that breathes in a specified way ▪ a mouth *breather* [=a person who breathes through the mouth rather than through the nose]

breath•less /ˈbrɛθləs/ *adj*

1 : unable to take enough air into your lungs : breathing very hard because you are trying to get more air ▪ The workout left me *breathless*. [=(more commonly) *out of breath*]

2 a : full of emotion ▪ They were *breathless* with anticipation. ▪ I watched them in *breathless* wonder. ▪ She describes the scene in *breathless* prose. **b** : very fast ▪ He drove at a *breathless* pace. **c** : full of activity ▪ a *breathless* schedule

– **breath•less•ly** *adv* ▪ The hike left me panting *breathlessly*. ▪ He *breathlessly* reported every detail of the accident.

– **breath•less•ness** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ She complained of *breathlessness*. [=(more commonly) *shortness of breath*]

breath•tak•ing /ˈbrɛθˌteɪkɪŋ/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

1 : very exciting : THRILLING ▪ The train raced past with *breathtaking* speed. ▪ They gave a *breathtaking* performance. ▪ The view of the mountains was *breathtaking*. ▪ a scene of *breathtaking* beauty

2 : very great or surprising ▪ his *breathtaking* ignorance ▪ The scope of the error is *breathtaking*.

– **breath•tak•ing•ly** *adv* ▪ a *breathtakingly* beautiful view

breath test *noun, pl* ~ **tests** [*count*] : a test that is used by the police to measure how much alcohol a person has drunk

breathy /ˈbrɛθi/ *adj* **breath•i•er**; **-est** : spoken or sung with the sound of a person's breath ▪ a *breathy* whisper ▪ the singer's *breathy* voice/vocals

– **breath•i•ly** /ˈbrɛθəli/ *adv* ▪ singing *breathily* – **breath•i•ness** /ˈbrɛθinəs/ *noun* [*noncount*]

bred *past tense and past participle of* 1BREED

breech birth /ˈbri:ʧ-/ *noun, pl* ~ **births** [*count*] : a birth in which a baby is born with the feet or buttocks coming out of the mother first instead of the head — called also *breech delivery*

breech•es /ˈbrɪʧəz/ *noun* [*plural*] : short pants that are fastened at or just below the knee ▪ riding *breeches* ✧ Except for its modern use to describe pants that people wear when riding horses, *breeches* is an old-fashioned word. — compare BRITCHES

1breed /ˈbri:d/ *verb* **breeds**; **bred** /ˈbrɛd/; **breed•ing**

1 [+ *obj*] : to keep and take care of animals or plants in order to produce more animals or plants of a particular kind ▪ He got into the business of *breeding* cattle. ▪ The plants are *bred* to resist disease and drought. ▪ dogs *bred* for hunting = dogs *bred* as hunters = dogs *bred* to hunt ▪ wild horses ***bred to*** [=*mated to*] domestic horses [=wild horses and domestic horses brought together to produce horses that have qualities of both]

2 [*no obj*] : to produce young animals, birds, etc. : to produce offspring by sexual reproduction ▪ low-lying areas where mosquitoes *breed* [=*reproduce*]

3 [+ *obj*] : to take care of and teach (a child who is growing up) ▪ She believes that we are *breeding* a generation of children who know nothing about the history of their country. — usually used as *(be) bred* ▪ children who *are bred* [=(more commonly) *raised, brought up*] in conditions of poverty and crime — see also BREEDING, ILL-BRED, WELL-BRED

4 [+ *obj*] : to cause or lead to (something) ▪ Despair often *breeds* violence. ▪ scandals that *breed* cynicism — see also *familiarity breeds contempt* at FAMILIARITY

bred in the bone — used to describe a personal quality that is a deep or basic part of someone's nature ▪ His love of sports is *bred in the bone*. [=*ingrained*] — often used as *bred-in-the-bone* before another noun ▪ He is a *bred-in-the-bone* conservative.

– **breed•er** *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] ▪ cattle/dog *breeders* [=people who breed cattle/dogs]

[2]breed *noun, pl* **breeds** [*count*]
1 : a particular kind of dog, cat, horse, etc. : a kind of animal that has been produced by breeding • The collie is a working *breed*. • exotic *breeds* of cats • different *breeds* of cattle
2 : a kind of person • a new/different *breed* of athlete • People like them are a ***dying breed***. [=there are not many people like them anymore] • Back then, stay-at-home dads were a ***rare breed***. [=there were not many stay-at-home dads] — see also HALF-BREED

breeding *noun* [*noncount*]
1 : the process by which young animals, birds, etc., are produced by their parents — often used before another noun • the *breeding* season
2 : the activity of keeping and caring for animals or plants in order to produce more animals or plants of a particular kind • She became involved in the *breeding* of sled dogs. • horse/dog/plant *breeding* — often used before another noun • a *breeding* program
3 *somewhat old-fashioned* **:** the way a person was taught in childhood to behave • His politeness shows good *breeding*. **:** good manners that come from being raised correctly • a person who lacks *breeding*

breeding ground *noun, pl* **~ grounds** [*count*]
1 : a place where animals go to breed • a *breeding ground* for seals
2 : a place or situation that helps or allows something to grow, develop, etc. • The Gulf of Mexico is a *breeding ground* for hurricanes. • The company's casual atmosphere serves as a *breeding ground* for innovation.

[1]breeze /ˈbri:z/ *noun, pl* **breez•es**
1 [*count*] **:** a gentle wind • a light/gentle/cool *breeze* • The flag fluttered in the *breeze*.
2 [*singular*] *informal* **:** something that is easy to do • The test was a *breeze*.
shoot the breeze see [1]SHOOT

[2]breeze *verb* **breezes; breezed; breez•ing** [*no obj*]
1 : to move quickly and confidently • Look who just *breezed* in! • He *breezed* past/by us without so much as a nod.
2 : to easily succeed at something • She *breezed* through the test. • The team *breezed* to victory. [=the team won easily]

breeze–block *noun, pl* **-blocks** [*count*] *Brit* **:** CINDER BLOCK

breeze•way /ˈbri:zˌweɪ/ *noun, pl* **-ways** [*count*] *US* **:** a narrow structure with a roof and no walls that connects two buildings (such as a house and garage)

breezy /ˈbri:zi/ *adj* **breez•i•er; -est**
1 : having strong winds **:** WINDY • a *breezy* day • a *breezy* beach
2 : informal and lively • a *breezy* essay • I enjoy the author's *breezy* style.
3 : relaxed in way that shows you are not concerned about or interested in something • She listened to their complaints with *breezy* indifference.
– breez•i•ly /ˈbri:zəli/ *adv* • He *breezily* dismissed our fears.

breth•ren /ˈbrɛðrən/ *plural of* BROTHER — used especially to begin to talk in a formal way to a group of people or to refer to the members of a particular group • Welcome, *brethren*. • our church *brethren*

brev•i•ty /ˈbrɛvəti/ *noun* [*noncount*] **:** the quality of being brief: such as **a :** the use of few words to say something • I've omitted certain passages for the sake of *brevity*. [=because I want to be brief] • The book's major flaw is its *brevity*. • "*Brevity* is the soul of wit . . ." —Shakespeare, *Hamlet* (1600) **b :** the quality or fact of lasting only for a short period of time • the *brevity* of youth

[1]brew /ˈbru:/ *verb* **brews; brewed; brew•ing**
1 : to make (beer, ale, etc.) [+ *obj*] They *brew* the beer on the premises. • The restaurant also *brews* its own ginger ale and root beer. [*no obj*] They've been *brewing* in the new brewery since March. • *brewing* vats • the *brewing* process
2 : to make (coffee, tea, etc.) [+ *obj*] I'll *brew* another pot of tea. — often + *up* • She *brewed up* some coffee while I cooked the bacon and eggs. [*no obj*] The coffee is *brewing*. [=the coffee is being brewed]
3 [*no obj*] **:** to start to form • It feels like there's a storm *brewing*. • Trouble is *brewing*.
– brew•er /ˈbru:wɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] • a *brewer* of fine ales

[2]brew *noun, pl* **brews**
1 *chiefly US* **:** a drink (such as beer or ale) that is made by brewing [*noncount*] a bottle of *brew* [*count*] I'll buy you a *brew*. • a manufacturer of specialty *brews* ✧ A ***home brew*** is beer or ale that you make at home. • Would you like to try one of my *home brews*?
2 a [*noncount*] *US* **:** COFFEE • a perfect cup of *brew* **b** [*count*] *Brit* **:** a cup of tea • time for a quick *brew*
3 [*count*] **:** a mixture of different things — usually singular • a strange *brew* of jazz, classical, and bluegrass music • Anger and desperation make for a dangerous *brew*. — see also WITCHES' BREW

brew•ery /ˈbru:wəri/ *noun, pl* **-er•ies** [*count*]
1 : a place where beer is made
2 : a company that makes beer

[1]bri•ar *also* **bri•er** /ˈbrajɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ars** *also* **-ers** [*count*] **:** a wild plant that has many sharp points (called thorns) on its branches • a thicket of *briars* — compare [2]BRIAR

[2]briar *noun, pl* **-ers** *or* **-ars** [*count*] **:** a tobacco pipe that is made from the root of a European plant — called also *briar pipe* — compare [1]BRIAR

[1]bribe /ˈbraɪb/ *noun, pl* **bribes** [*count*] **:** something valuable (such as money) that is given in order to get someone to do something • I offered the children a *bribe* for finishing their homework. ✧ Usually a bribe is used to get someone to do something illegal or dishonest. • a police officer accused of taking/accepting *bribes* • They received more than $10,000 in *bribes*.

[2]bribe *verb* **bribes; bribed; brib•ing** [+ *obj*] **:** to try to get someone to do something by giving or promising something valuable (such as money) **:** to give or offer a bribe to (someone) • She was arrested for attempting to *bribe* a judge. • They *bribed* him to keep quiet about the incident. • We *bribed* the children with candy.

brib•ery /ˈbraɪbəri/ *noun* [*noncount*] **:** the act or crime giving or accepting a bribe • They were arrested on charges of *bribery*. — often used before another noun • a *bribery* charge/conviction

bric–a–brac /ˈbrɪkəˌbræk/ *noun* [*noncount*] **:** small objects that are used for decoration and are not usually valuable • shelves full of *bric-a-brac* [=*knickknacks*]

[1]brick /ˈbrɪk/ *noun, pl* **bricks**
1 a [*count*] **:** a small, hard block of baked clay that is used to build structures (such as houses) and sometimes to make streets, paths, etc. • a pile of *bricks* **b** [*noncount*] **:** blocks of baked clay used as building material • a house made of *brick* • Most of the buildings in the town are (made of) *brick*. — often used before another noun • a *brick* wall/building/oven • a *brick* sidewalk
2 [*count*] **a :** a block of something • a *brick* of ice cream • a glass *brick* **b** *Brit* **:** a child's toy block • children playing with wooden *bricks*
3 [*count*] *informal* + *somewhat old-fashioned* **:** a helpful or dependable person • He has been an absolute *brick*.
bricks and mortar *Brit* **:** houses and other buildings especially when people consider buying them because of their possible future value • Market uncertainties have been driving the rush to invest in *bricks and mortar*. — see also BRICK-AND-MORTAR
drop a brick see [2]DROP
like a ton of bricks *informal* **:** very hard or severely • The loss of his job ***hit him like a ton of bricks***. [=hit him very hard; made him very upset, unhappy, etc.] • Our boss ***came down on us like a ton of bricks*** [=got very angry at us] when he found out we had missed the meeting.

[2]brick *verb* **bricks; bricked; brick•ing**
brick up [*phrasal verb*] ***brick (something) up*** *or* ***brick up (something)*** **:** to cover or block (something) with bricks • They *bricked up* the windows.

brick–and–mortar *or* **bricks–and–mortar** *adj* — used to describe a traditional store or business that is in a building instead of on the Internet • They have a Web site as well as several *brick-and-mortar* stores. — see also *bricks and mortar* at [1]BRICK

brick•bat /ˈbrɪkˌbæt/ *noun, pl* **-bats** [*count*] **:** a criticism or rude comment • The candidates resorted to hurling *brickbats* at one another. • For all the *brickbats* it has received, it's a good plan.

brick•lay•er /ˈbrɪkˌlejɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] **:** a person whose job is to build things with bricks
– brick•lay•ing /ˈbrɪkˌlejɪŋ/ *noun* [*noncount*]

brick red *noun* [*noncount*] **:** a brownish-red color — see color picture on page C3
– brick red *adj* • a *brick-red* scarf

brick•work /ˈbrɪkˌwɚk/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the part of something that is made with bricks ▪ the building's decorative *brickwork* ▪ Some of the *brickwork* is in need of repair.

brid•al /ˈbraɪdl̩/ *adj* : of or relating to a bride or a wedding ▪ a *bridal* shop/gown ▪ the ***bridal party*** [=the bride and groom and the people who stand with them during the wedding ceremony] ▪ the hotel's ***bridal suite*** [=a special set of rooms for a couple who have just been married] ▪ hosting a ***bridal shower*** [=a party for a woman who is about to be married]

bride /ˈbraɪd/ *noun, pl* **brides** [*count*] : a woman who has just married or is about to be married ▪ a new *bride* ▪ the mother of the *bride* — compare GROOM

bride•groom /ˈbraɪdˌgru:m, ˈbraɪdˌgrʊm/ *noun, pl* **-grooms** [*count*] : [1]GROOM 1 ▪ the bride and *bridegroom*

brides•maid /ˈbraɪdzˌmeɪd/ *noun, pl* **-maids** [*count*] : a female friend or relative who helps a bride at her wedding ▪ I was a *bridesmaid* in my sister's wedding. — compare BEST MAN, GROOMSMAN, MAID OF HONOR, MATRON OF HONOR

bride–to–be *noun, pl* **brides–to–be** [*count*] : a woman who is going to be married soon

[1]bridge /ˈbrɪʤ/ *noun, pl* **bridg•es** [*count*]

1 : a structure built over something (such as a river) so that people or vehicles can get across ▪ a *bridge* connecting the island to the mainland ▪ the Brooklyn *Bridge* ▪ a ***railroad bridge*** [=a bridge for trains] — see also DRAWBRIDGE, FOOTBRIDGE, SUSPENSION BRIDGE

2 : something that joins or connects different people or things ▪ Her work serves as a *bridge* between the past and the present. ▪ They hope to ***build a bridge*** between the two cultures. [=they hope to help the people in the two cultures understand each other]

3 : the place on a ship where the ship is steered

4 a : the upper part of the nose ▪ He broke ***the bridge of his nose*** **b** : the part of a pair of eyeglasses that rests on a person's nose

5 : the part of a guitar, violin, or similar musical instrument that raises the strings away from the surface

6 : part of a song that connects one section to the next section

7 : a false tooth or row of false teeth that fits between two real teeth

burn your bridges see [1]BURN

cross that bridge when you come to it ✧ If you say you will *cross that bridge when you come to it*, you mean that you will not worry about a possible problem until it actually happens. ▪ I don't know how we'll pay the bills if you quit your job, but *we'll cross that bridge when we come to it.*

water under the bridge see WATER

– compare [3]BRIDGE

[2]bridge *verb* **bridges**; **bridged**; **bridg•ing** [+ *obj*] : to make a bridge over or across (something) — usually used figuratively ▪ We hope to *bridge* the divisions between the two groups. — often used in the phrase ***bridge the gap*** ▪ styles that *bridge the gap* between fashion and practicality ▪ a book that attempts to *bridge the* generation *gap*

[3]bridge *noun* [*noncount*] : a card game for four players in two teams — compare [1]BRIDGE

bridge•head /ˈbrɪʤˌhɛd/ *noun, pl* **-heads** [*count*] : an area near the end of a bridge that is controlled by an army; *also* : any area that an army takes from an enemy and from which it can move forward to make an attack — sometimes used figuratively ▪ The company views the project as a *bridgehead* into the Asian market.

bridge loan *noun, pl* ~ **loans** [*count*] *chiefly US* : money that a bank lends you for a short period of time until you receive the money that you are getting from another source (such as from selling your house) — called also (*Brit*) *bridging loan*

[1]bri•dle /ˈbraɪdl̩/ *noun, pl* **bri•dles** [*count*] : a device that fits on a horse's head and that is used for guiding and controlling the horse — see picture at HORSE

[2]bridle *verb* **bridles**; **bri•dled**; **bri•dling**

1 [+ *obj*] : to put a bridle on (a horse) — sometimes used figuratively ▪ She was forced to *bridle* her anger.

2 [*no obj*] : to react in an angry way — usually + *at* ▪ He *bridled at* their criticism of his methods.

bridle path *noun, pl* ~ **paths** [*count*] : a path that is used for riding horses

[1]brief /ˈbri:f/ *adj* **brief•er**; **-est**

1 : lasting only a short period of time ▪ The meeting will be *brief.* ▪ She worked there for only a *brief* period (of time) in the late 1980s. ▪ They stopped by for a *brief* [=*quick*] visit.

2 : using only a few words ▪ I promise to be *brief.* [=I promise to say what I need to say quickly] ▪ She gave a *brief* [=*concise*] description/summary/history of the problem. ▪ The essay is *brief* but thorough enough. ▪ I'd like to say ***a brief word*** [=a few words] about the people who made this event possible. ▪ a few *brief words* of caution/praise ▪ I'd like to ***have a brief word*** with you. [=I would like to have a short conversation with you] — see also *in brief* at [2]BRIEF

3 *of clothing* : covering less of the body than is usual ▪ *brief* skirts/shorts ▪ a *brief* bikini

[2]brief *noun, pl* **briefs**

1 [*count*] : a brief statement or report ▪ a news *brief*

2 [*count*] *US, law* : a document that states the facts a lawyer plans to use in a court case ▪ a legal *brief*

3 [*count*] *chiefly Brit* : instructions that explain what a person is supposed to do ▪ Her *brief* is to manage the company's sales department.

4 *briefs* [*plural*] : short underpants for men, women, or children that fit close to the body ▪ a pair of *briefs* — see color picture on page C13; compare BOXER SHORTS

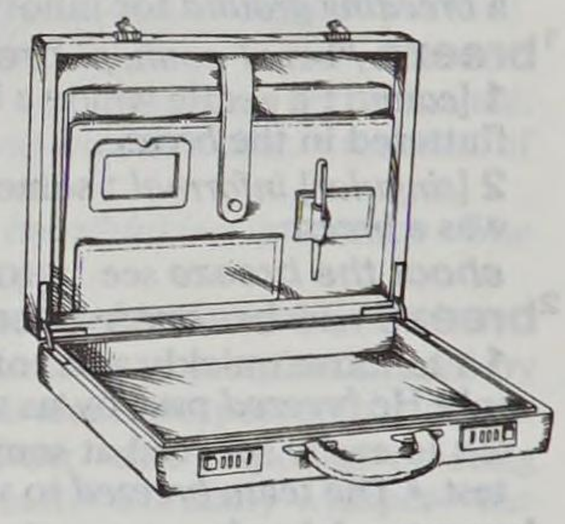
5 [*count*] *Brit, informal* : LAWYER ▪ the defendant's *brief*

in brief : in a few words ▪ Here is today's news *in brief.* [=here is a brief report of today's news] ▪ Their conclusion, *in brief*, is that we need more funding.

[3]brief *verb* **briefs**; **briefed**; **brief•ing** [+ *obj*] : to give information or instructions to (someone) ▪ The captain *briefed* the crew on the new safety procedures. ▪ The President has been *briefed* by his advisers. — compare DEBRIEF

– **briefing** *noun, pl* **-ings** [*count*] ▪ a military *briefing*

brief•case /ˈbri:fˌkeɪs/ *noun, pl* **-cas•es** [*count*] : a flat case that is used for carrying papers or books



briefcase

brief•ly /ˈbri:fli/ *adv*

1 [*more* ~; *most* ~] : in only a few words : in a brief way ▪ Several important issues are only *briefly* mentioned. ▪ Please *briefly* describe/summarize your experience. ▪ The party, ***to put it briefly***, was a disaster. = *Briefly*, the party was a disaster.

2 : for a short period of time ▪ They were *briefly* married. ▪ We *briefly* considered canceling the trip.

brier *variant spelling of* [1]BRIAR

[1]brig /ˈbrɪg/ *noun, pl* **brigs** [*count*] : a ship with square sails and two masts — compare [2]BRIG

[2]brig *noun, pl* **brigs** [*count*] : a jail or prison of the U.S. Navy; *especially* : one that is on a ship — compare [1]BRIG

bri•gade /brɪˈgeɪd/ *noun, pl* **-gades** [*count*]

1 : a large group of soldiers that is part of an army ✧ A brigade is part of a division and is made up of regiments.

2 a : a group of people organized to act together ▪ a fire *brigade* **b** *often disapproving* : a group of people who have the same beliefs ▪ The morality *brigade* insists that the book be censored.

brig•a•dier /ˌbrɪgəˈdiɚ/ *noun, pl* **-diers** [*count*] : a British army officer who is in charge of a brigade; *also* : the rank of a brigadier

brigadier general *noun, pl* ~ **-rals** [*count*] : an officer in the U.S. Army, Air Force, or Marine Corps who is ranked above a colonel; *also* : the rank of a brigadier general

brig•and /ˈbrɪgənd/ *noun, pl* **-ands** [*count*] *formal* + *old-fashioned* : a robber who travels with others in a group : BANDIT

bright /ˈbraɪt/ *adj* **bright•er**; **-est**

1 : producing a lot of light ▪ a *bright* light ▪ The lighting was too *bright.* : filled with light ▪ a *bright* room with lots of windows ▪ It was a *bright*, sunny day.

2 : having a very light and strong color ▪ The room was decorated in *bright* colors. ▪ a *bright* red ▪ *bright* blue eyes

3 a : able to learn things quickly : INTELLIGENT — used especially to describe a young person ▪ a *bright* child ▪ a *bright* young journalist **b** : showing intelligence : CLEVER ▪ a *bright* idea — often used in a joking or ironic way to describe a foolish idea, action, etc. ▪ Walking on the railroad bridge wasn't too *bright.* ▪ Who's *bright* idea was it to leave the refrigerator open?

4 : happy and lively ▪ a *bright* smile

5 : providing a reason for hope ▪ a young actress with a

bright [=*promising*] future ▪ *Brighter* days are ahead. [=things will improve in the future] ▪ The prospects for the team are *bright*. [=*good*]

bright and early : very early ▪ We will be getting up *bright and early* in the morning.

bright-eyed and bushy-tailed *informal* : happy and full of energy ▪ He arrived all *bright-eyed and bushy-tailed*.

bright spot *informal* : a good thing that occurs during a bad or difficult time ▪ Car sales were one of the few *bright spots* for the economy last year.

on the bright side — used to refer to the good part of something that is mostly bad ▪ (*US*) He lost the race, but *on the bright side*, he didn't get hurt. ▪ Your cat is very sick right now, but try to ***look on the bright side*** She can be treated with medicine.

– **bright•ly** *adv* ▪ a candle glowing *brightly* ▪ a *brightly* lit room ▪ *brightly* colored toys ▪ She smiled *brightly* [=*cheerfully*] at her daughter. – **bright•ness** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ You can adjust the light's *brightness*.

bright•en /ˈbraɪtn̩/ *verb* **-ens**; **-ened**; **-en•ing**

1 [+ *obj*] : to add more light to (something) ▪ He *brightened* the picture on the television.

2 a [+ *obj*] : to make (something) more colorful or cheerful ▪ Flowers can *brighten* any room. ▪ The good news *brightened* her mood. — often + *up* ▪ She always *brightens up* a party. ▪ You really *brightened up* my day. **b** [*no obj*] : to become brighter or more cheerful ▪ The sky *brightened* after the storm. ▪ Her mood *brightened*. ▪ Her eyes *brightened*. ▪ Business prospects *brightened* last month. ▪ Her face *brightened* in relief when she heard that he was not hurt.

bril /ˈbrɪl/ *adj, Brit, informal* : BRILLIANT 4 ▪ We had a *bril* [=*great*] time.

bril•liance /ˈbrɪljəns/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the quality or state of being brilliant ▪ The professor was known for his *brilliance*. ▪ the *brilliance* of a diamond

bril•liant /ˈbrɪljənt/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

1 : very bright : flashing with light ▪ *brilliant* jewels ▪ a *brilliant* star in the sky ▪ a store decorated in *brilliant* colors

2 : very impressive or successful ▪ He pitched a *brilliant* game. ▪ She gave a *brilliant* performance. ▪ a *brilliant* career

3 a : extremely intelligent : much more intelligent than most people ▪ a *brilliant* scientist ▪ She has a *brilliant* mind. **b** : showing extreme intelligence : extremely clever ▪ a *brilliant* idea — often used in a joking or ironic way to describe a foolish idea, action, etc. ▪ It was *brilliant* of you to leave your passport at home!

4 *Brit, informal* : very good : wonderful or excellent ▪ Dinner was *brilliant*. ▪ It is a *brilliant* [=*fabulous*] film. You really must see it. ▪ We had a *brilliant* time at the circus.

– **bril•liant•ly** *adv* ▪ a star shining *brilliantly* ▪ *brilliantly* colored clothes ▪ She acted *brilliantly* in her first film. ▪ a *brilliantly* written essay

Bril•lo /ˈbrɪloʊ/ *trademark* — used for a steel wool pad filled with soap and used for scrubbing pots, pans, and other items

[1]brim /ˈbrɪm/ *noun, pl* **brims** [*count*]

1 : the top edge of a glass or a similar container ▪ He filled the glass ***to the brim*** [=to the top] ▪ The glass was ***filled/full to the brim*** [=completely full] — often used figuratively ▪ Her heart was *filled to the brim* with joy.

2 : the part of a hat that sticks out around the lower edge — see picture at HAT

– **brim•ful** /ˈbrɪmˌfʊl/ *adj* ▪ The book is *brimful* of funny jokes. [=is filled with funny jokes] – **brimmed** /ˈbrɪmd/ *adj* ▪ a *brimmed* hat — often used with another adjective ▪ a wide-*brimmed* hat

[2]brim *verb* **brims**; **brimmed**; **brim•ming** [*no obj*] : to be completely filled *with* something ▪ a boy *brimming* (over) *with* energy ▪ Her heart was *brimming with* happiness. ▪ The show *brims with* excitement. ▪ Her eyes ***brimmed with tears*** [=tears filled her eyes]

brim•stone /ˈbrɪmˌstoʊn/ *noun* [*noncount*] *old-fashioned* : SULFUR — now usually used in the phrase ***fire and brimstone*** to refer to descriptions of hell ▪ The preacher's sermons were full of *fire and brimstone*. [=the preacher's sermons warned of the punishment of hell]

brin•dled /ˈbrɪndl̩d/ *or* **brin•dle** /ˈbrɪndl̩/ *adj* : having faint dark streaks or spots on a gray or light brown background ▪ a *brindled* cow

brine /ˈbraɪn/ *noun* [*noncount*]

1 : a mixture of salty water used especially to preserve or add flavor to food ▪ The chicken was soaked in *brine* before it was roasted.

2 : the salty water of the ocean ▪ ocean *brine* — see also BRINY

bring /ˈbrɪŋ/ *verb* **brings**; **brought** /ˈbrɑːt/; **bring•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to come with (something or someone) to a place ▪ I'll *bring* a bottle of wine (with me) when I come to your party. ▪ "Should I send you a check?" "Why not just *bring* me the money when you come?" ▪ Have you *brought* the money with you from the bank? ▪ She *brought* her boyfriend home to meet her parents. ▪ You stay where you are and I'll *bring* you another drink. = I'll *bring* another drink to you.

2 : to cause (something or someone) to come ▪ Her screams *brought* [=*attracted*] help. ▪ Her screams *brought* the neighbors running. [=the neighbors ran to help her when they heard her screams] ▪ Love of adventure *brought* her here before taking her to many other places. ▪ This radio station *brings* you all the news as it happens.

3 : to cause (something) to exist, happen, or start ▪ Can anything *bring* peace to this troubled region? ▪ In this part of the country, winter *brings* snow (with it). ▪ The tablets may *bring* (you) some relief. ▪ Having a baby has *brought* great happiness into her life. ▪ The sad story ***brought tears to our eyes*** [=made us cry] but its happy ending ***brought smiles to our lips*** [=made us smile]

4 *always followed by an adverb or preposition* : to cause (something or someone) to reach a specified state, place, condition, etc. ▪ The dancer *brought* his hands up to his face. ▪ (*US*) *Bring* the water to a boil. = (*Brit*) *Bring* the water to the boil. [=heat the water so that it boils] ▪ The pilot *brought* them safely out of danger. ▪ Winter snow *brought* traffic to a stop. ▪ A few steps *brought* us to the front door. ▪ The thrilling climax *brought* the audience to its/their feet. ▪ This history book *brings* us up to the present day.

5 : to have (a particular talent, quality, etc.) when you start to do something (such as a job) — + *to* ▪ She *brings* years of experience *to* the position. [=she comes to the position with years of experience] ▪ He *brings* a rare talent for solving problems *to* his new job as company president.

6 *law* : to start a case against someone in a court of law ▪ They threatened to *bring* [=*institute*] legal action against him. ▪ They are going to ***bring charges against*** him. [=they are going to charge him with a crime]

7 : to cause (something) to reach a total — + *to* ▪ Last week's sales figures *brought* our pretax profits for the year *to* just over $35,000,000. ▪ The donation *brought* the fund *to* over a million dollars.

8 : to get (an amount of money) as a price : to be sold for (a price) ▪ The painting ought to *bring* [=*fetch*] a high price.

> In addition to the phrases shown below, *bring* occurs in many idioms that are shown at appropriate entries throughout the dictionary. For example, *bring to bear* can be found at [2]BEAR and *bring to an end* can be found at [1]END.

bring about [*phrasal verb*] ***bring about (something)*** *also* ***bring (something) about*** : to cause (something) ▪ "What *brought about* the crisis?" "It was *brought about* by many factors."

bring around (*chiefly US*) *or chiefly Brit* ***bring round*** [*phrasal verb*]

1 ***bring (someone) around*** : to cause (someone) to come around: such as **a** : to cause (someone) to accept and support something (such as an idea) after opposing it ▪ She still says she won't support us, but we'll *bring* her *around* eventually. [=we'll convince/persuade her to support us eventually] — often + *to* ▪ I'm sure we can *bring* her *around to* our way of thinking. **b** : to cause (someone) to become awake again after being unconscious ▪ The boxer was knocked out and it took the doctor several minutes to *bring* him *around*. [=bring him to] **c** : to come with (someone) for a social visit ▪ Why don't you *bring* your friend *around* (to my house) after work today? **2** ***bring (something) around*** : to cause (something, such as a conversation) to go to a desired subject or area — + *to* ▪ We gradually *brought* the conversation *around to* the subject of his unpaid bills.

bring back [*phrasal verb*] **1** ***bring (something or someone) back*** *or* ***bring back (something or someone)*** **a** : to come back with (something or someone) ▪ What did you *bring back* (with you) from your vacation? ▪ You promised to *bring back* a present for me. = You promised to *bring* me *back* a present. **b** : to cause (something or someone) to return ▪ The death penalty was done away with in this area

many years ago, but some people now want it to be *brought back*. ▪ The movie is a fantasy about a man who is *brought back* (to life) from the dead. ▪ The company is doing poorly, and its former president is being *brought back* to help solve its problems. **c** : to cause (something or someone) to return *to* a condition, subject, etc. ▪ That question *brings* us *back* (again) *to* the fundamental problem of world peace. ▪ We gradually *brought* the conversation *back to* the subject of his unpaid bills. **2** ***bring (something) back*** *or* ***bring back (something)*** : to cause (something) to return to someone's memory ▪ Seeing her again *brought back* a lot of happy memories. ▪ I had almost forgotten about the time we spent together, but seeing her again ***brought it all back*** (to me).

bring before [*phrasal verb*] ***bring (someone or something) before (someone or something)*** *formal* : to cause (someone or something) to come to (someone or something) for an official decision or judgment ▪ He was *brought* (up) *before* the judge on a charge of obstructing justice. ▪ The case was finally *brought before* the Supreme Court.

bring down [*phrasal verb*] **1** ***bring down (someone or something)*** *or* ***bring (someone or something) down*** : to cause (someone or something) to fall down onto the ground ▪ The deer was *brought down* by a single shot. ▪ The plane was *brought down* by enemy fire. — often used figuratively ▪ The government was *brought down* by a vote of no confidence. ▪ a famous politician who was *brought down* by scandal **2** ***bring (something) down*** *or* ***bring down (something)*** : to cause (something) to become lower ▪ Will anything ever *bring* house prices *down*? **3** ***bring (someone) down*** *informal* : to cause (someone) to become sad or depressed ▪ All this rainy weather is really *bringing* me *down*. [=getting me down]

bring forth [*phrasal verb*] ***bring (something) forth*** *or* ***bring forth (something)*** *somewhat formal* : to produce (something) ▪ The rosebushes *brought forth* an abundance of flowers. ▪ He was able to *bring forth* persuasive arguments in support of his position. : to cause (something) to occur or exist ▪ Her controversial comments *brought forth* [=*provoked*] strong reactions from the public.

bring forward [*phrasal verb*] ***bring (something) forward*** *or* ***bring forward (something)*** **1** : to talk about or show (something) so that it can be seen or discussed by others ▪ The police have *brought* new evidence *forward*. **2** : to make the time of (something) earlier or sooner ▪ We need to *bring* the meeting *forward* from Tuesday to Monday so that more people can attend.

bring in [*phrasal verb*] **1** ***bring in (someone)*** *or* ***bring (someone) in*** : to cause (someone) to become involved in a process, activity, etc. ▪ The company has decided to *bring in* outside experts to help on the project. **2** ***bring in (something)*** *or* ***bring (something) in*** **a** : to produce or earn (an amount of money) ▪ Each sale *brought in* $5. ▪ He works at a large company and *brings in* a good salary. **b** *law* : to report (an official decision) to a court ▪ The jury *brought in* [=*returned*] a verdict of not guilty. [=the jury said that the defendant was not guilty] **c** *chiefly Brit* : to introduce (a new law, rule, etc.) ▪ The government is going to *bring in* legislation to make such practices illegal. **3** ***bring in (someone or something)*** *or* ***bring (someone or something) in*** : to cause (someone or something) to come to a place ▪ The store is having a special sale in order to *bring in* [=*attract*] new customers/business. ▪ The police *brought* him *in* (to the police station) for questioning.

bring off [*phrasal verb*] ***bring (something) off*** *also* ***bring off (something)*** : to do (something difficult) : to achieve or accomplish (something) ▪ It's a challenging role. She's the only actress I know with enough talent to *bring* it *off*.

bring on [*phrasal verb*] **1** ***bring on (something)*** *or* ***bring (something) on*** : to cause (something) to appear or occur ▪ The crisis was *brought on* by many factors. **2** ***bring (something) on (someone)*** : to cause (something bad) to happen to (someone) ▪ You've *brought* nothing but shame *on* your family since the day you were born! ▪ I can't help thinking you've *brought* some of this trouble *on* yourself.

bring out [*phrasal verb*] **1** ***bring out (something)*** *or* ***bring (something) out*** **a** : to show (something) : to cause (something) to appear or to be more easily seen ▪ The debate *brought out* [=*highlighted*] the differences between the two candidates. ▪ That blue sweater really *brings out* the color in your eyes. ▪ Our school aims to *bring out* [=*develop*] the talents in each of our students. ▪ A crisis ***brings out the best in*** some people and ***brings out the worst in*** others. [=a crisis causes some people to behave very well and other people to behave very badly] **b** : to produce (something, such as a book) : to cause (something) to become available or to come out ▪ a writer who's expected to *bring out* a new novel next year **2** ***bring (someone) out in (something)*** *Brit* : to cause (someone) to begin to have (something, such as a rash) on the skin ▪ Eating strawberries *brings* me *out in* spots. [=eating strawberries makes me break out in spots]

bring round see BRING AROUND (above)

bring to [*phrasal verb*] ***bring (someone) to*** : to cause (someone) to become awake again after being unconscious ▪ The boxer was knocked out and it took the doctor several minutes to *bring* him *to*. [=bring him around]

bring together [*phrasal verb*] ***bring (people) together*** *or* ***bring together (people)*** : to cause (people) to join or meet : to cause (people) to come together ▪ She and her husband were *brought together* by a shared love of the natural world. ▪ The conference has *brought together* some of the world's leading experts on laser technology.

bring up [*phrasal verb*] **1** ***bring (someone) up*** *or* ***bring up (someone)*** : to take care of and teach (a child who is growing up) ▪ I was born and *brought up* [=*raised, reared*] in Chicago. ▪ My grandparents *brought* me *up* after my parents died. ▪ My parents *brought* me *up* to respect authority. [=my parents taught me to respect authority when I was a child] **2** ***bring (something) up*** *or* ***bring up (something)*** **a** : to mention (something) when talking : to start to talk about (something) ▪ We were waiting for a suitable moment to *bring up* [=*introduce, raise*] the subject of his unpaid bills. ▪ I wasn't going to talk about money, but since you've *brought* it *up*, I guess it's something we should really discuss. ▪ I'm glad you mentioned money. That *brings up* the question of how much we can afford to spend. **b** *computers* : to cause (something, such as a file or picture) to appear on a computer screen ▪ The system makes it easy to *bring up* (on the screen) information about any customer. **c** : [1]VOMIT ▪ The patient tried to eat some breakfast but immediately *brought* it back *up* again. **3** ***bring (someone) up*** : to cause (someone) to stop suddenly — used in phrases like ***bring up short*** and ***bring up suddenly*** ▪ He was just starting to argue when her scream *brought him up short*.

bring yourself : to force yourself *to do* something that you do not want to do — usually used in negative statements ▪ He knew that he should apologize, but he couldn't *bring himself to do* it.

– **bring•er** *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] ▪ a *bringer* of good news

bring–and–buy sale *noun, pl* ~ **sales** [*count*] *Brit* : a sale to which people bring things for others to buy usually in order to raise money for charity

brink /ˈbrɪŋk/ *noun*

the brink : the edge at the top of a steep cliff — usually used figuratively to refer to a point that is very close to the occurrence of something very bad or (less commonly) very good ▪ He nearly lost everything because of his drug addiction, but his friends helped to pull him back from *the brink*. ▪ The two nations are ***on the brink of*** war. [=are very close to war] ▪ a city *on the brink of* financial disaster ▪ Doctors may be *on the brink of* finding a cure for this disease. ▪ a young actress who is *on the brink of* a brilliant career ▪ The other team ***brought them to the brink of*** defeat. [=came very close to defeating them] ▪ an animal that has been ***brought/pulled back from the brink of*** extinction

brink•man•ship /ˈbrɪŋkmənˌʃɪp/ *also chiefly US* **brinks•man•ship** /ˈbrɪŋksmənˌʃɪp/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the practice of causing or allowing a situation to become extremely dangerous in order to get the results that you want ▪ two nations caught up in nuclear *brinksmanship* ▪ engaging in political *brinkmanship*

briny /ˈbraɪni/ *adj* **brin•i•er; -est** : SALTY ▪ *briny* water ▪ oysters with a *briny* flavor

the briny *old-fashioned* : the sea ▪ out on *the briny*

brio /ˈbri:joʊ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : great energy and confidence ▪ She sings with *brio*.

bri•oche /briˈoʊʃ/ *noun, pl* **brioches** [*count, noncount*] : a light, sweet type of bread

brisk /ˈbrɪsk/ *adj* **brisk•er; -est**

1 : moving or speaking quickly : quick and efficient ▪ a *brisk*, no-nonsense manager ▪ She answered the phone in a *brisk* voice.

2 : pleasantly cool or cold ▪ *brisk* autumn weather ▪ The wind was *brisk*.

3 a : done with quickness and energy ▪ They went for a *brisk*

walk in the woods. • She walked at a *brisk* pace. **b** : very active and steady • Business is *brisk* at the store. • *brisk* economic growth • There is a *brisk* market in old movie posters.
– **brisk•ly** *adv* • The wind was blowing *briskly* off the ocean. • The flowers have been selling *briskly*. – **brisk•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

bris•ket /ˈbrɪskət/ *noun, pl* **-kets** [*count, noncount*] : beef from the chest of a cow

[1]bris•tle /ˈbrɪsəl/ *noun, pl* **bris•tles** [*count*] : a short, stiff hair, fiber, etc. • a face covered with *bristles* • the *bristles* of a brush
– **bris•tly** /ˈbrɪsli/ *adj* **bris•tli•er; -est** • a *bristly* mustache

[2]bristle *verb* **bristles; bris•tled; bris•tling** [*no obj*]
1 *of hair* : to rise up and become stiff • Electricity makes your hair *bristle*.
2 : to show signs of anger : to become angry — usually + *at* • He *bristled at* the insult. • She *bristled at* their criticism.
bristle with [*phrasal verb*] ***bristle with (something)*** **1** : to be covered with (something) • a bush *bristling with* thorns • The hillside *bristled with* soldiers. **2** : to be full of (something) • The movie *bristles with* excitement. [=the movie is very exciting] • He *bristles with* energy.

Brit /ˈbrɪt/ *noun, pl* **Brits** [*count*] *informal* : a British person

britch•es /ˈbrɪtʃəz/ *noun* [*plural*] *chiefly US, informal + old-fashioned* : PANTS • an old pair of *britches*
too big for your britches see [1]BIG

Brit•ish /ˈbrɪtɪʃ/ *adj* : of or relating to Great Britain and especially England • *British* newspapers • a *British* port
the British : the people of Great Britain and especially England • talked about *the British*

British English *noun* [*noncount*] : the English language used in England

Brit•ish•er /ˈbrɪtɪʃɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] *chiefly US, informal + old-fashioned* : a British person

British Summer Time *noun* [*noncount*] *Brit* : a period of the year between spring and fall when clocks in the United Kingdom are set one hour ahead of Greenwich mean time — called also (*Brit*) *Summer Time*; compare DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

Brit•on /ˈbrɪtn̩/ *noun, pl* **-ons** [*count*] *somewhat formal* : a British person

brit•tle /ˈbrɪtl̩/ *adj* **brit•tler; brit•tlest** [*or more ~; most ~*]
1 : easily broken or cracked • *brittle* glass • *brittle* bones
2 : not strong : easily damaged • The countries formed a *brittle* [=*fragile*] alliance.
3 : sharp in sound • a *brittle* laugh • a high, *brittle* voice
– **brit•tle•ness** /ˈbrɪtl̩nəs/ *noun* [*noncount*]

bro /ˈbroʊ/ *noun, pl* **bros** [*count*]
1 *informal* : BROTHER • my big *bro*
2 *US slang* — used as a friendly way of addressing a man or boy • Catch you later, *bro*.

[1]broach /ˈbroʊtʃ/ *verb* **broach•es; broached; broach•ing** [+ *obj*] : to introduce (a subject, issue, etc.) for discussion • She *broached* the idea of getting another cat.

[2]broach *noun, pl* **broaches** [*count*] : BROOCH

[1]broad /ˈbrɑːd/ *adj* **broad•er; -est**
1 a : large from one side to the other side : WIDE • He has *broad* shoulders. • a *broad* stripe • *broad* prairies • a *broad* avenue — opposite NARROW **b** *chiefly Brit* : having a specified width • three metres *broad* [=*wide*]
2 : including or involving many things or people : wide in range or amount • The store has a *broad* selection/variety of coats. • a president with *broad* [=*widespread*] appeal • There was *broad* agreement on the new government. • There are three *broad* categories of industry in the region: computers, finance, and education. • The conference was attended by ***a broad spectrum*** [=a range of many different kinds] of religious leaders. — opposite NARROW
3 : relating to the main parts of something : GENERAL • the *broad* outlines of a problem • discusses "family" in its *broadest* sense
4 : easily seen or noticed • She gave him a *broad* [=*obvious*] hint. • He speaks with a *broad* Midwestern accent.
in broad daylight : during the day when people and things can be easily seen rather than at night • The crime was committed *in broad daylight*.
– **broad•ly** *adv* [*more ~; most ~*] • He smiled *broadly* [=with a big smile] as he greeted us. • The book is *broadly* [=*generally*] concerned with the oil industry. • She *broadly* [=*obviously*] hinted that she wouldn't be coming back. • a ***broadly based*** [=*broad-based*] political movement

[2]broad *noun, pl* **broads** [*count*] *US slang, old-fashioned + often offensive* : WOMAN • a classy *broad*

broad•band /ˈbrɑːdˌbænd/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a fast electronic network that carries more than one type of communication (such as Internet and cable television signals)
– **broadband** *adj* • *broadband* Internet access

broad–based /ˈbrɑːdˌbeɪst/ *adj* : involving or attracting many different types of people • a *broad-based* environmental movement • The show has a *broad-based* audience.

broad bean *noun, pl* ~ **beans** [*count*] *chiefly Brit* : FAVA BEAN

broad–brush /ˈbrɑːdˌbrʌʃ/ *adj, always used before a noun* : relating to or involving the main or general parts of something rather than the details • The book is a *broad-brush* treatment of the subject.

[1]broad•cast /ˈbrɑːdˌkæst, *Brit* ˈbrɔːdˌkɑːst/ *verb* **-casts; -cast; -cast•ing** [+ *obj*]
1 : to send out (signals, programs, etc.) by radio or television • The station *broadcasts* the symphony live every Friday night. • The interview was *broadcast* from London.
2 : to tell (something that is private or secret) to many people • If you tell her anything about your personal life she'll *broadcast* it to everyone in the office.
3 : to throw (something, such as seeds) across a wide area of the ground • *broadcast* fertilizer on the lawn
– **broad•cast•er** *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] • radio/television *broadcasters* – **broadcasting** *noun* [*noncount*] • She wants to have a career in *broadcasting*.

[2]broadcast *noun, pl* **-casts**
1 [*count*] : a radio or television program • a live/recorded *broadcast* • Did you hear the *broadcast* of last night's game?
2 [*noncount*] : the act of sending out radio or television signals : the act of broadcasting something • The judge decided to allow *broadcast* of the trial. — sometimes used before another noun • She wants to have a career in ***broadcast journalism***. [=a career in broadcasting]

broad•en /ˈbrɑːdn̩/ *verb* **-ens; -ened; -en•ing**
1 [+ *obj*] : to make (something) wider or more general • They need to *broaden* their understanding of other cultures. • The police have *broadened* the scope of the investigation. • Travel can help to ***broaden your horizons/mind***. [=increase the range of your knowledge, understanding, or experience]
2 [*no obj*] : to become wider or more general • The road *broadens* [=*widens*] near the airport. • Her smile *broadened* when I told her the good news. • The investigation has *broadened* to include the mayor's staff. • His interests *broadened* to include art and music, not just sports.

broad jump *noun*
the broad jump *US* see LONG JUMP
– **broad jumper** *noun, pl* ~ **-pers** [*count*]

broad–mind•ed /ˈbrɑːdˈmaɪndəd/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : willing to accept opinions, beliefs, or behaviors that are unusual or different from your own • Her mother was *broad-minded* about religion. • a *broad-minded* view of racial issues
– **broad–mind•ed•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

broad•sheet /ˈbrɑːdˌʃiːt/ *noun, pl* **-sheets** [*count*] *chiefly Brit* : a newspaper that has large pages and that usually deals with serious subjects — compare TABLOID

[1]broad•side /ˈbrɑːdˌsaɪd/ *noun, pl* **-sides** [*count*]
1 : a very strong and harsh spoken or written attack • a *broadside* of criticism • The senator delivered a *broadside* [=*blast*] against the President.
2 : an attack by a ship in which all the guns on one side of the ship are fired together

[2]broadside *adv*
1 : with the side facing forward • Turn the ship *broadside*.
2 *chiefly US* : directly from the side • The car was hit *broadside*.

[3]broadside *verb* **-sides; -sid•ed; -sid•ing** [+ *obj*] *US* : to hit (a vehicle) very hard from the side • His car was *broadsided* by a truck as he was driving through the intersection.

broad•sword /ˈbrɑːdˌsoɚd/ *noun, pl* **-swords** [*count*] : a large, heavy sword that has a wide blade used for cutting

Broad•way /ˈbrɑːdˌweɪ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a street in New York City where there are many theaters — used to refer to the world of the theater in New York City • He's starring in a play on *Broadway*. • She's a big star on *Broadway*. — often used before another noun • a *Broadway* play/star — see also OFF-BROADWAY

bro•cade /broʊˈkeɪd/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a cloth with a raised design in gold or silver thread
– **bro•cad•ed** /broʊˈkeɪdəd/ *adj*

broc·co·li /'brɑ:kəli/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a common vegetable that has green branches and many small green or purple flowers — see color picture on page C4

bro·chure /broʊ'ʃuɚ, *Brit* 'brəʊʃə/ *noun, pl* **-chures** [*count*] : a small, thin book or magazine that usually has many pictures and information about a product, a place, etc. ▪ a travel *brochure*

[1]brogue /'broʊg/ *noun, pl* **brogues** [*count*] : the way that English is pronounced in Ireland or Scotland : an Irish or Scottish accent ▪ He spoke with an Irish *brogue*. — compare [2]BROGUE

[2]brogue *noun, pl* **brogues** [*count*] : a shoe decorated with small holes along the sides and at the toe — compare [1]BROGUE

broil /'brojəl/ *verb* **broils**; **broiled**; **broil·ing** *US*
1 [+ *obj*] : to cook (food) directly over or under extremely high heat ▪ *broil* a chicken ▪ a *broiled* steak
2 [*no obj*] *informal* : to be extremely hot ▪ The farm workers were *broiling* out in the hot sun.

broil·er /'broɪlɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]
1 *US* : a part of an oven that becomes very hot and that food is placed under to be broiled ▪ Put the steaks under the *broiler*.
2 *chiefly US* : a young chicken that is suitable for broiling — compare FRYER, ROASTER

[1]broke *past tense of* [1]BREAK

[2]broke /'broʊk/ *adj, not used before a noun, informal* : not having any money ▪ She is *broke* and homeless. ▪ Can I borrow 10 dollars? I'm *broke* until payday. ▪ I'm ***flat broke*** = (*Brit*) I'm ***stony broke*** [=I have no money at all]
go broke *informal* : to spend or lose all of your money ▪ He *went broke* after he lost his job. ▪ The company could *go broke* if the economy doesn't improve soon.
go for broke *informal* : to do something that is dangerous or that could result in complete failure in order to try to achieve success ▪ She decided to *go for broke* and start her own restaurant.
if it ain't broke, don't fix it *informal* — used to say that you should not try to change something that is working well

[1]broken *past participle of* [1]BREAK

[2]bro·ken /'broʊkən/ *adj*
1 : separated into parts or pieces by being hit, damaged, etc. ▪ The street was covered with *broken* glass. ▪ a *broken* [=*cracked*] mirror ▪ a *broken* bone ▪ a *broken* leg/arm [=a leg/arm that has a broken bone]
2 : not working properly ▪ a *broken* camera
3 : not kept or honored ▪ a *broken* promise
4 : without hope or strength because of having suffered very much ▪ a *broken* spirit ▪ The failure of his business left him a *broken* man. ▪ a *broken* heart
5 : spoken with many mistakes : not fluent ▪ He spoke (in) *broken* English.
6 — used to describe a relationship (such as a marriage) that has ended ▪ a *broken* marriage/engagement ▪ a *broken* family [=a family in which the parents have divorced] ▪ children from ***broken homes*** [=children whose parents are divorced]

broken–down *adj* : in a bad or weak condition because of being old, not well cared for, etc. ▪ a *broken-down* car

bro·ken·heart·ed /'broʊkən'hɑɚtəd/ *adj* : filled with great sadness especially because someone you love has left you, has died, etc. : HEARTBROKEN ▪ She was *brokenhearted* when her boyfriend left her.

[1]bro·ker /'broʊkɚ/ *noun, pl* **-kers** [*count*] : a person who helps other people to reach agreements, to make deals, or to buy and sell property (such as stocks or houses) ▪ a real estate *broker* ▪ an insurance *broker* ▪ a marriage *broker* [=a person who helps to arrange the marriages of other people] — see also PAWNBROKER, POWER BROKER, STOCKBROKER

[2]broker *verb* **-kers**; **-kered**; **-ker·ing** [+ *obj*] : to help people, countries, etc., to make a deal or to reach an agreement ▪ *broker* a stock sale ▪ The President has been trying to *broker* a peace treaty.

bro·ker·age /'broʊkərɪʤ/ *noun, pl* **-ag·es** [*count*] : the business of a broker ▪ one of the country's largest *brokerages* ▪ She works for a *brokerage* firm.

brol·ly /'brɑ:li/ *noun, pl* **-lies** [*count*] *Brit, informal* : UMBRELLA 1

bro·mide /'broʊˌmaɪd/ *noun, pl* **-mides**
1 [*count, noncount*] : a drug that makes a person calm
2 [*count*] : a statement that is intended to make people feel happier or calmer but that is not original or effective ▪ His speech had nothing more to offer than the usual *bromides* about how everyone needs to work together.

bronc /'brɑ:ŋk/ *noun, pl* **broncs** [*count*] *US, informal* : BRONCO

bron·chi·al /'brɑ:ŋkijəl/ *adj* : relating to or involving the tubes that carry air into the lungs ▪ a *bronchial* infection ▪ *bronchial* tubes

bron·chi·tis /brɑn'kaɪtəs/ *noun* [*noncount*] *medical* : an illness in which your bronchial tubes become sore or damaged and you cough a lot ▪ acute/chronic *bronchitis*

bron·co /'brɑ:ŋkoʊ/ *noun, pl* **-cos** [*count*] : a wild horse of western North America ▪ a rodeo featuring ***bucking broncos***

bron·to·sau·rus /ˌbrɑ:ntə'sorəs/ *noun, pl* **-rus·es** [*count*] : a very large dinosaur that had a long neck and tail

Bronx cheer /'brɑ:ŋks-/ *noun, pl* ~ **cheers** [*count*] *US, informal* : a rude sound made to show that you dislike something : RASPBERRY

[1]bronze /'brɑ:nz/ *noun, pl* **bronz·es**
1 [*noncount*] : a metal that is made by combining copper and tin ▪ a statue cast in *bronze*
2 [*count*] **a** : something (such as a statue) that is made of bronze ▪ a *bronze* of the president **b** : BRONZE MEDAL ▪ She won a *bronze* in skiing.
3 [*noncount*] : a yellowish-brown color — see color picture on page C2

[2]bronze *adj*
1 : made of bronze ▪ a *bronze* statue
2 : having a yellowish-brown color ▪ *bronze* curtains

Bronze Age *noun*
the Bronze Age : a period of time that began between 4000 and 3000 B.C. in which people used bronze to make weapons and tools ▪ The artifact dates to *the Bronze Age*. ▪ *The Bronze Age* preceded the Iron Age. ▪ a *Bronze Age* weapon/tool — compare IRON AGE, STONE AGE

bronzed /'brɑ:nzd/ *adj*
1 : having skin that has been made brown by the sun : TANNED ▪ a *bronzed* young swimmer ▪ *bronzed* bodies
2 : covered with a material that makes something appear to be made of bronze ▪ *bronzed* baby shoes

bronze medal *noun, pl* ~ **-dals** [*count*] : a medal made of bronze that is awarded as the prize for third place in a sports competition ▪ The team won the *bronze medal* in basketball. — compare GOLD MEDAL, SILVER MEDAL

Bronze Star *noun, pl* ~ **Stars** [*count*] : a U.S. military award — called also *Bronze Star Medal*

brooch /'broʊʧ/ *noun, pl* **brooch·es** [*count*] : a piece of jewelry that is held on clothing by a pin and worn by a woman at or near her neck — called also *broach*; see color picture on page C11

[1]brood /'bru:d/ *noun, pl* **broods** [*count*]
1 : a group of young birds (such as chickens) that were all born at the same time ▪ a hen and her *brood* of chicks
2 *informal* : the children in someone's family ▪ Mrs. Smith took her *brood* to church every Sunday.

[2]brood *verb* **broods**; **brood·ed**; **brood·ing** [*no obj*] : to think a lot about something in an unhappy way ▪ He *brooded* over/about/on his mistake. ▪ After the argument, she sat in her bedroom, *brooding*.
– **brood·er** *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]

brooding *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : very serious and sad ▪ a *brooding* artist ▪ a *brooding* landscape/essay
– **brood·ing·ly** *adv*

broody *adj* **brood·i·er**; **-est**
1 : serious and sad : BROODING ▪ a movie with a dark and *broody* atmosphere
2 **a** *of a hen* : ready to lay and sit on eggs ▪ a *broody* hen **b** *Brit, informal, of a woman* : wanting to have a baby ▪ a *broody* wife

[1]brook /'brʊk/ *verb* **brooks**; **brooked**; **brook·ing** [+ *obj*] : to allow (something) to exist or happen — usually used with *no* ▪ Their coach *brooks* [=*tolerates*] *no* disagreement. ▪ a government that *brooks no* criticism

[2]brook *noun, pl* **brooks** [*count*] : a small stream ▪ a babbling *brook*

broom /'bru:m/ *noun, pl* **brooms**
1 [*count*] : a brush that has a long handle and that is used for sweeping floors
2 [*noncount*] : a type of bush that has long, thin branches and yellow flowers

broom·stick /'bru:mˌstɪk/ *noun, pl* **-sticks** [*count*] : the handle of a broom

Bros. *abbr* brothers — used in company names ▪ Smith *Bros.*

broth /ˈbrɑːθ/ *noun, pl* **broths** [*count, noncount*] : liquid in which food (such as meat) has been cooked ▪ chicken *broth*

broth•el /ˈbrɑːθəl/ *noun, pl* **-thels** [*count*] : a building in which prostitutes are available : BORDELLO

broth•er /ˈbrʌðɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]
1 : a boy or man who has one or both of the same parents as you ▪ my little/younger *brother* ▪ her big/older *brother* ▪ Her *brother* was adopted. — compare BROTHER-IN-LAW, HALF BROTHER, STEPBROTHER
2 : a man who is from the same group or country as you ▪ his college fraternity *brothers* ▪ We must support our *brothers* and sisters fighting overseas.
3 *pl* **broth•ers** *or* **breth•ren** /ˈbrɛðrən/ : a male member of a religious group ▪ the *brothers* in a monastery — used especially as a title ▪ *Brother* John
4 *US, informal* : a black man — used especially by African-Americans
5 *US, informal* — used when talking to a man ▪ *Brother*, do you have an extra cigarette? ▪ *Brother*, you have got to relax.
6 *chiefly US, informal* — used as an interjection to express surprise or annoyance ▪ *Brother* was I ever sick. [=I was very sick] ▪ Oh, *brother*!

broth•er•hood /ˈbrʌðɚˌhʊd/ *noun, pl* **-hoods**
1 [*noncount*] : feelings of friendship, support, and understanding between people ▪ the *brotherhood* of humankind
2 [*count*] : a group or organization of people who have the same interests, jobs, etc. ▪ the musical *brotherhood* — often used in the names of labor unions ▪ the International *Brotherhood* of Electrical Workers

broth•er–in–law /ˈbrʌðɚɹənˌlɑː/ *noun, pl* **broth•ers–in–law** /ˈbrʌðɚzənˌlɑː/ [*count*]
1 : the brother of your husband or wife
2 : the husband of your sister

broth•er•ly /ˈbrʌðɚli/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : showing or suggesting the love and closeness of a brother ▪ He gave his sister a *brotherly* hug. ▪ He received *brotherly* support from his fellow priests.
– **broth•er•li•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

brought *past tense and past participle of* BRING

brou•ha•ha /ˈbruːˌhɑːˌhɑː/ *noun, informal + usually disapproving* : great excitement or concern about something [*singular*] A *brouhaha* erupted over her statements about the president. [*noncount*] There's been a lot of *brouhaha* about her statements.

brow /ˈbraʊ/ *noun, pl* **brows** [*count*]
1 : EYEBROW ▪ She raised her *brows* in surprise.
2 : FOREHEAD ▪ She wiped the sweat from her *brow*. — see also HIGHBROW, LOWBROW, MIDDLEBROW
3 : the upper edge of a steep slope ▪ the *brow* of a high hill
knit your brow see [1]KNIT

brow•beat /ˈbraʊˌbiːt/ *verb* **-beats**; **-beat**; **-beat•en** /-ˌbiːtn̩/; **-beat•ing** [+ *obj*] : to use threats or angry speech to make (someone) do or accept something ▪ His father likes to *browbeat* waiters and waitresses. — often + *into* ▪ He refuses to be *browbeaten into* making changes he thinks are not necessary.

[1]brown /ˈbraʊn/ *adj* **-er**; **-est**
1 : having a color like coffee or chocolate ▪ a *brown* cow ▪ The door was *brown*.
2 : having dark or tanned skin ▪ workers whose backs are *brown* from long hours in the sun

[2]brown *noun, pl* **browns** : a color like the color of coffee or chocolate [*noncount*] a shade of *brown* ▪ The room was decorated in *brown*. [*count*] a mix of *browns* and reds — see color picture on page C1
– **brown•ish** /ˈbraʊnɪʃ/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] ▪ *brownish* eyes

[3]brown *verb* **browns**; **browned**; **brown•ing** : to make (something) brown or to become brown especially by cooking or heating [+ *obj*] *Brown* the chicken in a pan with butter. ▪ lightly *browned* sausages ▪ Her skin was *browned* by the sun. [*no obj*] The chicken is *browning* in the oven.

browned off *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] *Brit, informal* : annoyed and unhappy about something ▪ feeling thoroughly *browned off*

brown•ie /ˈbraʊni/ *noun, pl* **-ies** [*count*]
1 ***Brownie*** : a member of an organization of Girl Scouts or Girl Guides for girls ages 7 through 10 — compare CUB SCOUT
2 : a short, square piece of rich, chocolate cake that often contains nuts

brownie points *noun* [*plural*] *informal* : praise, credit, or approval that a person gets from someone (such as a boss or a teacher) for doing something good or helpful ▪ He's trying to earn/win/get *brownie points* (from the boss) by offering to work more overtime.

brown•nose /ˈbraʊnˌnoʊz/ *verb* **-nos•es**; **-nosed**; **-nos•ing** [+ *obj*] *informal + disapproving* : to try to get the approval of (an important or powerful person) by praise, flattery, etc. ▪ He has been *brownnosing* everyone in the company just to get a bigger office.
– **brown•nos•er** *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] ▪ That girl is a *brownnoser*. – **brownnosing** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ I can't stand his *brownnosing*.

brown•out /ˈbraʊnˌaʊt/ *noun, pl* **-outs** [*count*] *chiefly US* : a period when the amount of electricity in an area is reduced because there is not enough for everyone who needs it — compare BLACKOUT 2

brown•stone /ˈbraʊnˌstoʊn/ *noun, pl* **-stones**
1 [*noncount*] : a reddish-brown type of stone that is used for building
2 [*count*] *US* : a house that is covered with a layer of brownstone ▪ She lives in a beautiful *brownstone* in Manhattan.

brown sugar *noun* [*noncount*] : a type of sugar that is brown because it contains a dark syrup (called molasses)

browse /ˈbraʊz/ *verb* **brows•es**; **browsed**; **brows•ing**
1 : to look at many things in a store, in a newspaper, etc., to see if there is something interesting or worth buying [*no obj*] Several customers were *browsing* in the bookstore. — often + *through* ▪ He saw her *browsing through* the magazine section of the store. ▪ He was *browsing through* the want ads in the newspaper, looking for a job. [+ *obj*] He was *browsing* the want ads in the newspaper.
2 [+ *obj*] : to use a special program (called a browser) to find and look at information on the Internet ▪ *browse* [=*surf*] the Web/Internet
3 [*no obj*] *of an animal* : to eat grass, plants, etc. : GRAZE ▪ cows *browsing* in the pasture

brows•er /ˈbraʊzɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]
1 : a person who looks at the things being sold in a store to see if there is something worth buying : a person who browses ▪ There were a few *browsers* in the bookstore.
2 : a computer program that is used to find and look at information on the Internet ▪ a Web *browser*

[1]bruise /ˈbruːz/ *noun, pl* **bruis•es** [*count*]
1 : a dark and painful area on your skin that is caused by an injury ▪ He had a bad *bruise* on his leg after he fell.
2 : a dark area on a plant or piece of fruit that has been damaged ▪ a *bruise* on an apple

[2]bruise *verb* **bruises**; **bruised**; **bruis•ing**
1 a [+ *obj*] : to cause a bruise on (part of a person's body, a piece of fruit, etc.) ▪ She *bruised* her knee when she fell. — often used as *(be) bruised* ▪ His arms and legs *were* badly *bruised* in the accident. **b** [*no obj*] : to get a bruise ▪ She *bruises* easily. [=she gets bruises from minor injuries that would not cause bruises in most people]
2 [+ *obj*] : to hurt (someone's confidence, feelings, etc.) through speech or actions ▪ I don't want to *bruise* anyone's feelings. — usually used as *(be) bruised* ▪ His ego *was* badly *bruised* when he lost the race. ▪ There were *bruised* feelings after he was thrown out of the band.
– **bruising** *noun* [*noncount*] I noticed some *bruising* on his back. [*singular*] His ego took a *bruising* when he lost.

bruis•er /ˈbruːzɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] *informal* : a large, strong man ▪ That boy is going to be a *bruiser* when he grows up!

bruising *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : extremely rough or painful ▪ a *bruising* campaign battle ▪ a *bruising* fight

brûlée see CRÈME BRÛLÉE

brunch /ˈbrʌnʧ/ *noun, pl* **brunch•es** [*count*] : a meal that combines breakfast and lunch and that is usually eaten in late morning

bru•nette *also* **bru•net** /bruˈnɛt/ *noun, pl* **-nettes** *also* **-nets** [*count*] : a person who has brown or black hair ▪ a beautiful *brunette* ✧ This word usually refers to a woman or a girl and is spelled *brunette*. When it refers to a man or a boy, it is usually spelled *brunet*.
– **brunette** *also* **brunet** *adj* ▪ *brunette* hair

brunt /ˈbrʌnt/ *noun*

the brunt of : the main force or effect of (something harmful or dangerous) ▪ Cities on the coast felt/bore *the brunt of* the storm. ▪ His troops took *the brunt of* the enemy attack. ▪ *The brunt of* his criticism was directed at the supervisors.

B

[1]brush /ˈbrʌʃ/ *noun, pl* **brush•es** [*count*]

1 : a tool with many stiff hairs, fibers, etc., that is used for cleaning, smoothing, or painting something ▪ Use a wire *brush* to get the rust off the metal. — see picture at DUSTPAN; see also HAIRBRUSH, PAINTBRUSH, TOOTHBRUSH

2 a : an act of cleaning or smoothing something with a brush ▪ I gave my daughter's hair a quick *brush*. **b** : a quick, light movement ▪ She wiped the crumbs off the table with a *brush* of her hand.

(as) daft as a brush see DAFT

tar (someone) with the same brush see [2]TAR

– compare [3]BRUSH, [4]BRUSH

[2]brush *verb* **brushes**; **brushed**; **brush•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 a : to clean or smooth (something) with a brush ▪ *brush* your teeth/hair **b** : to put (something) on or onto something with a brush ▪ *Brush* some butter onto the fish before cooking it.

2 : to remove (something) with a brush or with a quick movement of your hand, fingers, etc. ▪ *Brush* the dirt off your pants. ▪ The camera showed him *brushing* [=*wiping*] away a tear.

3 : to touch gently against (something) when going past it ▪ Leaves *brushed* my cheek. ▪ The two men ***brushed shoulders*** [=touched at the shoulders] as they walked past each other.

4 : to move quickly past someone without stopping or paying attention ▪ The governor *brushed* by/past the reporters.

brush aside [*phrasal verb*] ***brush (something) aside*** *or* ***brush aside (something)*** : to treat (something) as not important : to ignore or dismiss (something) ▪ He *brushed aside* [=*brushed off*] questions about his son's arrest.

brush off [*phrasal verb*] **1** ***brush (something) off*** *or* ***brush off (something)*** : to treat (something) as not important : to refuse to deal with or talk about (something) in a serious way ▪ The company *brushed off* [=*brushed aside*] reports that it couldn't pay its bills. **2** ***brush (someone) off*** *or* ***brush off (someone)*** : to respond to (someone) in a rude way that shows you are not interested in what is being asked for or suggested ▪ I asked him for some help, but he just *brushed* me *off*. — see also BRUSH-OFF

brush up [*phrasal verb*] ***brush up*** *or* ***brush up (something)*** : to improve your skill at (something) or increase your knowledge of (something) ▪ My Spanish is very rusty. I need to *brush up* before I go on my vacation to Mexico. ▪ I need to *brush up* my Spanish. — often + *on* ▪ I need to *brush up on* my Spanish.

[3]brush *noun, pl* **brushes** [*count*] : a situation in which you briefly experience or almost experience something bad, dangerous, exciting, etc. — + *with* ▪ As a teenager he had several *brushes with* the law. [=was in trouble with police several times] ▪ She had a *brush with* [=briefly saw or met] a famous actor at a restaurant in New York. ▪ Her *brush with* fame/greatness came when she sang the national anthem at the football game. ▪ He had a *brush with* death [=he almost died] when climbing the mountain. — compare [1]BRUSH, [4]BRUSH

[4]brush *noun* [*noncount*]

1 : wood from small branches on a tree ▪ a pile of *brush*

2 : small bushes or trees ▪ a hillside covered with dense *brush* ▪ a lion hiding in the *brush* — see also UNDERBRUSH

– compare [1]BRUSH, [3]BRUSH

brush–off /ˈbrʌʃˌɑːf/ *noun*

the brush-off *informal* : rude treatment or behavior by someone who is not interested at all in what another person wants or asks for ▪ I wanted to ask him about his decision but he ***gave me the brush-off***. ▪ I ***got the brush-off*** when I asked her for help. — see also *brush off* at [2]BRUSH

brush•stroke /ˈbrʌʃˌstroʊk/ *noun, pl* **-strokes** [*count*] : the paint left on a painting by a movement of the artist's brush

brusque /ˈbrʌsk/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : talking or behaving in a very direct, brief, and unfriendly way ▪ She asked for a cup of coffee and received a *brusque* reply: "We don't have any." ▪ The teacher was *brusque* and impatient.

– **brusque•ly** *adv* – **brusque•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

brus•sels sprout *or* **Brus•sels sprout** /ˈbrʌsəl-/ *noun, pl* ~ **sprouts** [*count*] : a small, green vegetable that looks like a very small cabbage — see color picture on page C4

bru•tal /ˈbruːtl̩/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

1 : extremely cruel or harsh ▪ a *brutal* military dictatorship ▪ a *brutal* attack/murder/assault ▪ *brutal* winter weather ▪ Sailors sometimes faced *brutal* punishments like whipping. ▪ a *brutal* struggle for survival in the wilderness

2 : very direct and accurate in a way that is harsh or unpleasant ▪ The writer describes the dangers of drugs with *brutal* honesty. ▪ The movie is a *brutal* depiction of the war.

3 *informal* : very bad or unpleasant ▪ The traffic was *brutal* on the way to work. ▪ I had a *brutal* headache this morning.

– **bru•tal•ly** *adv* ▪ He was *brutally* murdered. ▪ He was *brutally* honest/frank in his criticism of my work.

bru•tal•i•ty /bruˈtæləti/ *noun, pl* **-ties** : cruel, harsh, and usually violent treatment of another person [*noncount*] police *brutality* ▪ the *brutality* of slavery [*count*] the *brutalities* of a prison

bru•tal•ize *also Brit* **bru•tal•ise** /ˈbruːtl̩ˌaɪz/ *verb* **-iz•es**; **-ized**; **-iz•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to cause (someone) to lose ordinary human kindness or feelings ▪ a young man *brutalized* by the experience of war

2 : to treat (someone) in a very harsh and usually violent way ▪ She claimed she had been sexually *brutalized*.

– **bru•tal•i•za•tion** *also Brit* **brutalisation** /ˌbruːtl̩əˈzeɪʃən/ *noun* [*noncount*]

[1]brute /ˈbruːt/ *noun, pl* **brutes** [*count*] : a cruel, rough, or violent man ▪ Let go of me, you *brute*! ✧ *Brute* originally meant the same as *beast* but is used now to refer to a person who is like a beast.

[2]brute *adj, always used before a noun*

1 : very strong or forceful ▪ They used *brute* force to open the door. ▪ *brute* strength

2 : very harsh ▪ the *brute* fact of getting old ▪ *brute* necessity

brut•ish /ˈbruːtɪʃ/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : cruel, violent, and stupid : resembling or suggesting a beast ▪ She is married to a *brutish*, drunken slob. ▪ *brutish* behavior

– **brut•ish•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

BS *abbr, US*

1 *or* ***B.S.*** bachelor of science ▪ She received a *B.S.* in chemistry from Smith College. ▪ a *B.S.* degree

2 *informal + impolite* bullshit ▪ a load of *BS*

BSc *abbr, Brit* bachelor of science

bub /ˈbʌb/ *noun, pl* **bubs** [*count*] *US, informal + old-fashioned* : BUDDY — usually used to address someone ▪ Come on *bub*, let's get going.

[1]bub•ble /ˈbʌbəl/ *noun, pl* **bubbles** [*count*]

1 a : a tiny, round ball of air or gas inside a liquid ▪ They saw air *bubbles* in the water. ▪ champagne *bubbles* **b** : a small ball of air in a solid substance ▪ There were *bubbles* in the ice. **c** : a very light ball of air inside a thin layer of soap ▪ soap *bubbles* ▪ The children were ***blowing bubbles***. [=were making soap bubbles by blowing air through a thin layer of soap]

2 : a period when many people invest money in something and cause its value to rise to a level that is much higher than its real value until finally its value drops very suddenly ▪ a stock market *bubble* ▪ The Internet stock *bubble* finally burst.

burst someone's bubble *informal* : to cause someone to suddenly realize that something is not really good, true, etc. ▪ I'm sorry to *burst your bubble*, but the job is not really that exciting.

[2]bubble *verb* **bub•bles**; **bub•bled**; **bub•bling** [*no obj*]

1 : to form or produce bubbles ▪ Water *bubbled* [=*boiled*] in the pot. ▪ Oil *bubbled* (up) through the ground.

2 : to flow with the quiet sound of water moving over rocks ▪ a *bubbling* brook

3 : to be very happy and excited — usually + *with* ▪ The children were *bubbling with* excitement. — often + *over* ▪ He was *bubbling over with* enthusiasm for the project.

4 *of emotions, feelings, etc.* : to exist in a constant way without being openly shown ▪ He seemed calm, but I could feel the tension that was *bubbling* beneath the surface.

bubble and squeak *noun* [*noncount*] *Brit* : a meal of potatoes, cabbage, and sometimes meat mixed together and fried

bubble bath *noun, pl* ~ **baths**

1 [*count*] : a bath in which bubbles are made by a special type of soap ▪ She took a *bubble bath*.

2 [*noncount*] : the soap that is used to make bubbles in a bath ▪ She bought some *bubble bath*.

bubble gum *noun* [*noncount*] : a type of gum that you chew and that can be blown into large bubbles

bubble–gum *adj, always used before a noun* : intended to appeal to young teenagers ▪ *bubble-gum* music

[1]bub•bly /ˈbʌbli/ *adj* **bub•bli•er**; **-est**

1 : full of bubbles ▪ a *bubbly* liquid
2 : very happy, cheerful, and lively ▪ She is pretty, *bubbly*, and smart. ▪ *bubbly* music

[2]bubbly *noun* [*noncount*] *informal* : CHAMPAGNE ▪ a glass of *bubbly*

bu•bon•ic plague /bju:ˈbɑ:nɪk-/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a very serious disease that is spread especially by rats and that killed many people in the Middle Ages — compare BLACK DEATH

buc•ca•neer /ˌbʌkəˈniɚ/ *noun, pl* **-neers** [*count*]
1 : [1]PIRATE 1
2 : a person who tries to become wealthy or powerful by doing things that are illegal or dishonest ▪ corporate *buccaneers*

[1]buck /ˈbʌk/ *noun, pl* **bucks** [*count*]
1 *informal* **a** : DOLLAR ▪ I owe you a *buck*. ▪ Those toys are five *bucks* apiece. **b** : MONEY ▪ That car costs ***big bucks*** [=a lot of money] ▪ I am just working hard, trying to ***make a buck*** [=to make money] ▪ a ***fast/quick buck*** [=money earned or gotten quickly]
2 : a male animal (such as a male deer) — compare DOE ▪ He's an outdoorsman who enjoys *buck* hunting.
3 *informal* : MAN ▪ a veteran tennis star competing against an ambitious young *buck*
bang for the/your buck see [2]BANG
look/feel like a million bucks see MILLION
pass the buck : to avoid a responsibility by giving it to someone else ▪ Stop trying to *pass the buck* and take responsibility for what you've done. ▪ The federal government *passed the buck* to the state governments.
the buck stops here ✧ Expressions like *the buck stops here* are used to say that you accept a responsibility and will not try to give it to someone else. ▪ I'm willing to accept the blame for what happened. ***The buck stops with me.***

[2]buck *verb* **bucks**; **bucked**; **buck•ing**
1 [*no obj*] *of a horse* : to jump violently into the air with the back bent upward ▪ a *bucking* horse/bronco — sometimes used figuratively ▪ The plane *bucked* when we went through some dark clouds.
2 [+ *obj*] : to oppose or resist (something or someone) ▪ He is reluctant to *buck* [=*go against, defy*] the leaders of his own political party. ▪ The local decline in crime *bucked* a nationwide trend. [=crime declined locally but is increasing nationally] ▪ He was always trying to ***buck the system.*** [=to oppose the rules of the system; to do things that were not allowed]
buck for [*phrasal verb*] ***buck for (something)*** *US, informal* : to try very hard or work very hard to get (something) ▪ He is *bucking for* a promotion at work.
buck up [*phrasal verb*] *informal* **1** : to become happier or more confident ▪ *Buck up*, buddy. You'll feel better soon.
2 ***buck (someone) up*** *or* ***buck up (someone)*** : to cause (someone) to be happier or more confident : to cheer up (someone) ▪ The shows were meant to *buck up* the soldiers. ▪ trying to *buck up* [=*improve*] the morale of the troops

[1]buck•et /ˈbʌkət/ *noun, pl* **-ets**
1 [*count*] **a** : an open container with a handle that is used especially to hold and carry water and other liquids ▪ a *bucket* and mop **b** : the amount contained in a bucket ▪ a *bucket* [=*bucketful*] of water ▪ We used two *buckets* of paint to paint the living room.
2 [*count*] : a large container that is part of a machine (such as a tractor) and that is used for digging or carrying dirt, rocks, and other material
3 ***buckets*** [*plural*] *informal* : a large amount especially of a liquid ▪ The players were sweating *buckets*. [=were sweating very much] ▪ crying *buckets* of tears ▪ It's raining *buckets*. = The rain is coming down ***in buckets.*** [=it's raining very hard]
4 [*count*] *basketball* : a successful shot : BASKET ▪ She scored/sank five *buckets* in the last five minutes of the game.
a drop in the bucket see [1]DROP
kick the bucket see [1]KICK
– **buck•et•ful** /ˈbʌkətˌfʊl/ *noun, pl* **buck•et•fuls** /ˈbʌkətˌfʊlz/ *also* **buck•ets•ful** /ˈbʌkətsˌfʊl/ [*count*] ▪ a *bucketful* [=*bucket*] of nails ▪ She has *bucketfuls* [=*buckets*] of money.

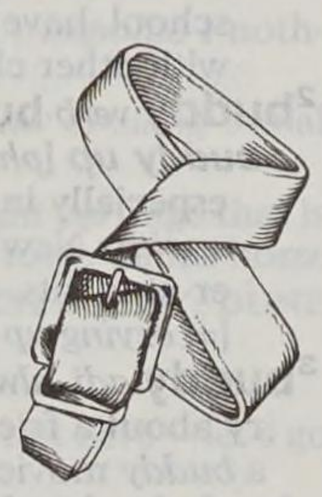

bucket

[2]bucket *verb* **-ets**; **-et•ed**; **-et•ing**
bucket down [*phrasal verb*] *Brit, informal* : to rain very heavily ▪ The rain is really *bucketing down*. = It's *bucketing down*. [=it's pouring]

bucket seat *noun, pl* ~ **seats** [*count*] : a low, separate seat for one person in a car or other vehicle

bucket shop *noun, pl* ~ **shops** [*count*] *Brit, informal* : a company that sells cheap airplane tickets

[1]buck•le /ˈbʌkəl/ *noun, pl* **buck•les** [*count*] : a metal or plastic device that is attached to one end of a belt or strap and that is used to connect it to the other end ▪ a belt *buckle* — see picture at SHOE


buckle

[2]buckle *verb* **buckles**; **buck•led**; **buck•ling**
1 [+ *obj*] **a** : to fasten (something, such as a belt) with a buckle ▪ *Buckle* your seat belt. **b** : to attach (something) with a buckle ▪ She *buckled* the horses into their harness.
2 a [*no obj*] : to bend or collapse from pressure, heat, etc. ▪ The pavement *buckled* in the heat. ▪ I suddenly felt dizzy and my knees/legs *buckled*. [=my knees bent and I began to fall down] — often used figuratively ▪ He finally *buckled* under the pressure/strain of his job. **b** [+ *obj*] : to cause (something) to bend or collapse ▪ Heat *buckled* the pavement.
buckle down [*phrasal verb*] *informal* : to start to work hard ▪ You had better *buckle down* if you want to get good grades.
buckle up [*phrasal verb*] *US* : to fasten your seat belt in a car or other vehicle ▪ You should always *buckle up* [=(*Brit*) *belt up*] before you start driving.

buck naked *adj, informal* : completely naked : not wearing any clothes ▪ He was standing in front of the window, *buck naked*.

buck private *noun, pl* ~ **-vates** [*count*] *US, informal* : a private in the U.S. Army or Marines — used to stress that a private has the lowest rank in the military ▪ He enlisted as a *buck private* and rose through the ranks to become a general.

buck•shot /ˈbʌkˌʃɑ:t/ *noun* [*noncount*] : small lead balls that are fired by a shotgun — called also *shot*

buck•skin /ˈbʌkˌskɪn/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a soft type of leather that is made especially from the skin of a deer or similar animal — often used before another noun ▪ a *buckskin* jacket

buck teeth *noun* [*plural*] : upper teeth that stick out in the front of the mouth ▪ She wore braces to fix her *buck teeth*.
– **buck–toothed** /ˈbʌkˌtu:θt/ *adj*

buck•wheat /ˈbʌkˌwi:t/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a plant with dark seeds that are used to make grain and flour; *also* : grain or flour made from the seeds of the buckwheat plant

bu•col•ic /bjuˈkɑ:lɪk/ *adj, literary + formal* : of or relating to the country or country life : PASTORAL ▪ a charming *bucolic* farmhouse ▪ the *bucolic* English countryside

[1]bud /ˈbʌd/ *noun, pl* **buds** [*count*]
1 : a small part that grows on a plant and develops into a flower, leaf, or new branch ▪ The bush has plenty of *buds* but no flowers yet. ▪ flower *buds* ✧ If a plant is ***in bud*** it is beginning to grow buds. ▪ The trees are *in bud* [=*budding*] now. — see color picture on page C6
2 *US, informal* : [1]BUDDY ▪ Hey, *bud* [=*pal*], how's it going?
nip (something) in the bud see [1]NIP
– see also COTTON BUD, TASTE BUD

[2]bud *verb* **buds**; **bud•ded**; **bud•ding** [*no obj*] : to produce buds ▪ The trees *budded* early this spring.

Bud•dhism /ˈbu:ˌdɪzəm, ˈbʊˌdɪzəm/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a religion of eastern and central Asia that is based on the teachings of Gautama Buddha
– **Bud•dhist** /ˈbu:dɪst, ˈbʊdɪst/ *noun, pl* **-dhists** [*count*] ▪ She and her husband are *Buddhists*. – **Buddhist** *adj* ▪ *Buddhist* monks ▪ a *Buddhist* temple

bud•ding /ˈbʌdɪŋ/ *adj*
1 : beginning to develop ▪ the couples' *budding* romance ▪ her *budding* career as a lawyer
2 *always used before a noun* : beginning to become successful ▪ a *budding* singer/actor/writer

[1]bud•dy /ˈbʌdi/ *noun, pl* **-dies**
1 [*count*] *informal* : a close friend — used especially to describe men or boys who are friends ▪ We've been *buddies* [=*pals*, (*chiefly Brit*) *mates*] since junior high school. ▪ He's one of my old army *buddies*. ▪ a *buddy* from college = a college *buddy*
2 [*singular*] *US, informal + sometimes impolite* — used to address a man who you do not know ▪ Hey, *buddy*, do you know where Maple Street is?
3 [*count*] : a person who does some activity with you ▪ His

fishing *buddy* just bought a new boat. • her drinking *buddies* [=the people who often drink alcohol with her]

the buddy system *US* : an arrangement in which two people help or protect each other • If your children walk to school, have them use the *buddy system*. [=have them walk with other children]

[2]buddy *verb* **buddies; bud•died; bud•dy•ing**

buddy up [*phrasal verb*] *US, informal* : to become friendly especially in order to get help or some advantage — often + *with* • New students are encouraged to *buddy up with* older students. — often + *to* • businessmen *buddying up to* [=*cozying up to*] politicians to get their support

[3]buddy *adj, always used before a noun, informal* : telling a story about a friendship between two usually male characters • a *buddy* movie/comedy

bud•dy–bud•dy /ˌbʌdiˈbʌdi/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] *US, informal* : very friendly or too friendly • She's been *buddy-buddy* [=*chummy*] with the band for several years. • He's a little too *buddy-buddy* with his professors.

budge /ˈbʌʤ/ *verb* **budg•es; budged; budg•ing**

1 : to move slightly — usually used in negative statements [*no obj*] Their horses refused to *budge*. • The door was stuck, and we couldn't even get it to *budge*. [+ *obj*] Could you try opening this jar for me? I can't *budge* the lid.

2 : to change your opinion or decision — usually used in negative statements [*no obj*] They wouldn't *budge* on the issue. = They refused to *budge*. • He wouldn't *budge* at all. = He wouldn't ***budge an inch***. [+ *obj*] We tried to change her mind, but we couldn't *budge* her.

bud•ger•i•gar /ˈbʌʤəriˌgɑɚ/ *noun, pl* **-gars** [*count*] : a small, usually light green and yellow bird that is often kept as a pet — called also *budgie*

[1]bud•get /ˈbʌʤət/ *noun, pl* **bud•gets**

1 a : an amount of money available for spending that is based on a plan for how it will be spent [*count*] What's the average weekly/monthly/annual *budget* for a family of five? • The film has a million-dollar *budget*. • He's been trying to live on a *budget* of less than $1,500 a month. • a movie with a big *budget* = a ***big-budget*** movie [=a movie that costs a lot of money to make] • a movie with a low/small *budget* = a ***low-budget*** movie [=a movie that does not cost a lot of money to make] [*noncount*] The project was completed on schedule and ***under budget***. [=it was completed for less money than had been planned] • We're still ***within budget***. [=we still are not spending more money than we planned to spend] • The director always goes ***over budget*** on his films. [=the director always spends more money than is planned] — often used before another noun • The governor will discuss the state's *budget* deficit/surplus. • a *budget* crisis • *budget* cuts **b** [*count*] : a plan used to decide the amount of money that can be spent and how it will be spent • We'll have to work out a *budget* so we can buy a new car. • The government may have to raise taxes to ***balance the budget***. [=to have enough money to provide the amount that is being spent] ✧ If you are ***on a budget***, you have planned how you will spend your money usually because you do not have a lot to spend and need to save money. • The store has great bargains for people *on a budget*. [=people who do not have much money to spend] • She started her business ***on a small/tight/shoestring budget*** [=she did not have much money when she started her business] and could not afford to overspend.

2 [*count*] : an official statement from a government about how much it plans to spend during a particular period of time and how it will pay for the expenses

– bud•get•ary /ˈbʌʤəˌteri, *Brit* ˈbʌʤətri/ *adj, formal* • *budgetary* plans/matters/issues/constraints/cuts

[2]budget *verb* **-gets; -get•ed; -get•ing**

1 [+ *obj*] : to plan to spend (an amount of money) for a particular purpose • They *budgeted* millions of dollars to make the film. • The project is *budgeted* at more than $100,000. • He *budgets* $50 for entertainment each month.

2 [*no obj*] : to make and follow a plan for spending your money • If we *budget* carefully, we will be able to go on the trip. • We're *budgeting* [=saving our money] for a new car.

3 [+ *obj*] : to plan how to use (something, such as your time) • I need to learn how to *budget* my time more wisely.

– budgeting *noun* [*noncount*] • Careful *budgeting* is essential to running a business.

[3]budget *adj, always used before a noun* : low in price : suitable for someone who is on a budget • *budget* hotels

bud•gie /ˈbʌʤi/ *noun, pl* **-gies** [*count*] *informal* : BUDGERIGAR

[1]buff /ˈbʌf/ *noun, pl* **buffs** [*count*] : a person who is very interested in something and who knows a lot about it • She's a tennis *buff*. [=*fan*, *enthusiast*] • history/movie/music *buffs* — compare [2]BUFF

[2]buff *noun* [*noncount*] : a light somewhat yellow or orange color — see color picture on page C2

in the buff *informal* : not wearing any clothes : NAKED • They sunbathe *in the buff*. [=*in the nude*]

to the buff *informal* : to a naked condition • They stripped down *to the buff*. [=they took all their clothes off]

– compare [1]BUFF

[3]buff *or* **buffed** /ˈbʌft/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] *US, informal* : having a strong, muscular body or form • a *buff* bodybuilder • He's at the gym every day trying to get *buff*. • the *buff* body of an athlete

[4]buff *verb* **buffs; buffed; buff•ing** [+ *obj*] : to make (a surface) smooth and shiny by rubbing it • The floors are waxed and *buffed* every year. • I *buffed* [=*shined*] my shoes. • She is going to the salon to get her nails *buffed*.

buff up [*phrasal verb*] ***buff up*** *or* ***buff (someone or something) up*** *or* ***buff up (someone or something)*** *informal* : to become stronger and more muscular or to make (someone or something) stronger and more muscular by exercising and weight lifting • She is *buffing up* for her role as a female boxer. • He *buffed* himself *up* by going to the gym every day. — often used as *buffed-up* • *buffed-up* bodies • a *buffed-up* actor/athlete

buf•fa•lo /ˈbʌfəˌloʊ/ *noun, pl* **buffalo** *or* **buf•fa•loes** [*count*]

1 *US* : BISON

2 : WATER BUFFALO

buffalo wing *noun, pl* **~ wings** [*count*] *US* : a chicken wing that is fried and covered with a spicy sauce and that is usually served with blue cheese dressing ✧ Buffalo wings are named after the city of Buffalo, New York.

[1]buff•er /ˈbʌfɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]

1 : something that gives protection by separating things : a protective barrier • Thick walls serve as a *buffer* from/against the sounds of the city. — often used figuratively • She had to act as a *buffer* between the two brothers, who wouldn't stop arguing. • It's important to save money as a *buffer* against times of illness or the loss of your job. — see also BUFFER STATE, BUFFER ZONE

2 *computers* : a place in the memory of a computer where information is stored for a short time

3 *chiefly Brit* : either one of two devices with metal springs that are connected to the front and back of railroad cars in order to reduce shock when the train hits things

hit the buffers *or* ***run into the buffers*** *Brit, informal* : to stop or fail • His acting career *hit the buffers*. • The project *ran into the buffers*.

– compare [3]BUFFER

[2]buffer *verb* **-ers; -ered; -er•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to protect (something) *from* something • The trees help *buffer* the house *from* the hot summer sun.

2 : to lessen the harmful effects of (something) • The wall *buffers* the noise of the traffic.

3 *computers* : to put (something, such as data) in a buffer

[3]buffer *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] *Brit, informal* : an old man • He's a harmless old *buffer*. — compare [1]BUFFER

buffer state *noun, pl* **~ states** [*count*] : a country that is located between two larger countries that often fight with each other

buffer zone *noun, pl* **~ zones** [*count*] : an area that keeps two things separated • There must be a 500-foot *buffer zone* between the river and the new buildings.

[1]buf•fet /bəˈfeɪ, *Brit* ˈbʊˌfeɪ/ *noun, pl* **-fets** [*count*]

1 : a meal for which different foods are placed on a table so that people can serve themselves • The restaurant offers a breakfast *buffet*. • There will be a cold *buffet* [=a meal of different cold foods set on a table] at the party. — often used before another noun • He went back to the *buffet* table for a second helping. • a *buffet* meal/lunch/dinner

2 *chiefly Brit* : a place in a train, a bus station, etc., where people can buy food and drinks — see also BUFFET CAR

3 *chiefly US* : a piece of furniture that is used in a dining room for holding dishes, silverware, etc. : SIDEBOARD

[2]buffet *verb* **-fets; -feted; -fet•ing** [+ *obj*] : to hit (something) with great force many times • The waves *buffeted* [=*battered*] the shore. • The strong winds *buffeted* the ship. — often used as *(be) buffeted* • The island *was buffeted* by a tropical storm

last month. — often used figuratively ▪ The city's schools are *being buffeted* by budget cuts.

buffet car *noun, pl* ~ **cars** [*count*] *Brit* : DINING CAR

buf·foon /bə'fu:n/ *noun, pl* **-foons** [*count*] : a stupid or foolish person who tries to be funny ▪ Stop acting like a *buffoon*. ▪ a ridiculous *buffoon*

– **buf·foon·ery** /bə'fu:nəri/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ silly *buffoonery* [=foolish behavior that is meant to be funny]

[1]bug /'bʌg/ *noun, pl* **bugs**

1 [*count*] *chiefly US, informal* : a usually small insect ▪ There's a *bug* in my soup! ▪ Close the door. You're letting the *bugs* in. — often used before another noun ▪ Her legs were covered in *bug* bites. [=itchy or painful wounds from insects] ▪ Use plenty of *bug* spray/repellent to keep the mosquitoes from biting you.

2 [*count*] : a usually mild illness (such as a cold) that can be passed from one person to another ▪ He caught some kind of *bug* from the other kids at school. ▪ There's been a nasty flu *bug* going around. ▪ I picked up an intestinal/stomach *bug*.

3 [*count*] : a problem that prevents a computer program or system from working properly ▪ We found/detected a *bug* [=*glitch*] in the program. ▪ The software was full of *bugs*. ▪ They've been trying to work/get the *bugs* out of the system. [=trying to fix the system's problems]

4 [*count*] : a small hidden microphone that is used to secretly listen to and record people : LISTENING DEVICE ▪ The government planted/put a *bug* in her telephone/apartment.

5 ***the bug*** *informal* : a sudden, strong interest in a particular activity ▪ He was first bitten by *the* acting *bug* [=he first became interested in acting] when he was 18. ▪ *the* travel *bug*

[2]bug *verb* **bugs**; **bugged**; **bug·ging**

1 [+ *obj*] *informal* : to bother or annoy (someone) ▪ Quit *bugging* me! ▪ John, stop *bugging* your sister. ▪ It really *bugs* me to see how he treats her.

2 [+ *obj*] : to put a hidden microphone in (a room, telephone, etc.) in order to secretly hear what people are saying ▪ Is this phone *bugged*? ▪ The cops *bugged* his apartment. ▪ a *bugging* device

3 [*no obj*] *of the eyes* : to stick out more than is normal especially because of surprise or fear — usually + *out* ▪ Their eyes were *bugging out* as if they saw a ghost. — see also BUG-EYED

bug off [*phrasal verb*] *US, informal* : to go away — used in speech as a rude or angry way to tell someone to leave you alone and to stop bothering you ▪ She angrily told him to *bug off*.

bug out [*phrasal verb*] *US, informal* : to leave quickly ▪ Wait here till we get back. Don't *bug out* (on us). — see also [2]BUG 3 (above)

bug·a·boo /'bʌgəˌbu:/ *noun, pl* **-boos** [*count*] *US, often disapproving* : something that makes people very worried or upset ▪ politicians complaining about that old *bugaboo*, high oil prices

bug·bear /'bʌgˌbeɚ/ *noun, pl* **-bears** [*count*] : something that causes problems or annoys people ▪ The biggest *bugbear* of the skiing business is a winter with no snow.

bug–eyed /'bʌgˌaɪd/ *adj* : having eyes that stick far out of the head ▪ The audience was *bug-eyed* with amazement.

[1]bug·ger /'bʌgɚ/ *noun, pl* **-gers** [*count*] *informal*

1 : an annoying or difficult but usually small thing ▪ I put down my keys, and now I can't find the *buggers*. ▪ (*Brit*) The exam was a *bugger*. [=the exam was difficult]

2 *chiefly Brit* **a** *offensive* : a person (especially a man) who is strongly disliked ▪ I can't stand that stupid *bugger*. **b** : an annoying or playful person or animal ✧ In this sense, *bugger* is an impolite word that is often used in a loving or friendly way. ▪ Well, you're a cute little *bugger* [=*rascal*, *critter*, *guy*], aren't you! ▪ You cheeky *bugger*!

[2]bugger *verb* **-gers**; **-gered**; **-ger·ing** [+ *obj*] *Brit*

1 *offensive* : to have anal sex with (someone)

2 *informal + impolite* — used as an interjection to express strong anger, surprise, etc. ▪ *Bugger* [=*damn*] this machine! ▪ *Bugger* it/me! ▪ Well, I'll be *buggered*. [=*damned*] I can't believe you did it!

bugger about *or* ***bugger around*** [*phrasal verb*] *Brit, informal + impolite* **1** : to spend time in a useless or aimless way ▪ We just *buggered about* [=*messed around*] all afternoon. **2** ***bugger (someone) about/around*** : to cause problems or trouble for (someone) ▪ I don't like being *buggered about* by faceless bureaucrats with all their forms.

bugger off [*phrasal verb*] *Brit, informal + impolite* : to go away ▪ She angrily told him to *bugger off*.

bugger up [*phrasal verb*] ***bugger up (something)*** *or* ***bugger (something) up*** *Brit, informal + impolite* : to make mistakes in doing or making (something) ▪ The waiter *buggered up* [=*messed up*] our order.

bugger all *noun* [*noncount*] *Brit, informal + impolite* : nothing at all ▪ They were wearing *bugger all*!

bug·gery /'bʌgəri/ *noun* [*noncount*] *Brit, law or slang* : anal sex : SODOMY

[1]bug·gy /'bʌgi/ *noun, pl* **-gies** [*count*] : a light carriage that is usually pulled by one horse ▪ He rode into town on his horse and *buggy*. — see also BABY BUGGY, BEACH BUGGY, DUNE BUGGY

[2]buggy *adj* **bug·gi·er**; **-est**

1 *US* : having many insects ▪ It's too *buggy* out here—let's go inside. ▪ a *buggy* swamp

2 *chiefly US, of a computer program, system, etc.* : having many problems or errors that prevent proper operation : having many bugs ▪ *buggy* software ▪ a *buggy* system

bu·gle /'bju:gəl/ *noun, pl* **bu·gles** [*count*] : a musical instrument like a trumpet that is used especially for giving military signals ▪ blow a *bugle*

– **bu·gler** /'bju:glɚ/ *noun, pl* **-glers** [*count*] ▪ He was a *bugler* in the army.

[1]build /'bɪld/ *verb* **builds**; **built** /'bɪlt/; **build·ing**

1 : to make (something) by putting together parts or materials [+ *obj*] The house is *built* (out) of brick/logs. ▪ The bridge was *built* in the 1890s. ▪ The planes were *built* in Germany. ▪ The organization helps *build* houses for poor families. ▪ *building* more powerful machines/computers/weapons ▪ A family of birds has *built* a nest on our roof. ▪ She started *building* a fire in the fireplace. ▪ He *built* a model airplane from a kit. ▪ He *built* a dollhouse for the children. = He *built* the children a dollhouse. [*no obj*] You will need permission to *build* on your property.

2 [+ *obj*] : to develop or form (something) gradually ▪ I've started *building* a collection of rare books. [=I've started collecting rare books] ▪ They *built* the organization from scratch. = They *built* the organization from the ground/bottom up. ▪ They are *building* a legal case against the tobacco industry. ▪ scientists *building* theories about how the universe began ▪ At college, you'll *build* friendships that will last a lifetime. ▪ She *built* a successful career in advertising. ▪ He has *built* a reputation as a talented artist. ▪ *building* a more peaceful world [=making the world more peaceful] — often + *up* ▪ *Building up* a successful business can take many years. ▪ She has *built up* a large collection of awards. ▪ We've been *building up* a savings account. — see also BUILD UP (below)

3 [+ *obj*] : to increase the amount of (something) ▪ Lifting weights helps *build* muscle and increase strength. ▪ These programs are designed to help *build* confidence in young women. ▪ The advertisements are aimed at *building* support for political candidates. ▪ They thought the army would *build* character in their son. [=would make their son become a better person] — often + *up* ▪ She runs a little farther every day to *build up* (her) endurance. ▪ *building up* momentum/stamina/energy ▪ He's been trying to *build up* the courage/confidence to talk to her. ▪ These exercises will help you *build up* your strength. — see also BUILD UP (below)

4 [*no obj*] : to grow or increase to a high point, level, number, etc. ▪ The excitement was beginning to *build* before the game. ▪ A crowd was *building* around the accident. ▪ The story slowly *builds* to a climax. [=the story slowly reaches a climax] ▪ Chemicals in the lake are *building* to dangerous levels. — often + *up* ▪ As the water temperature rises, the pressure inside the pot begins to *build up*. ▪ Their passion/anger/fear/hatred has been *building up* for years. — see also BUILD UP (below)

build around [*phrasal verb*] ***build (something) around (something)*** : to develop or organize (something) by using (something, such as an idea) as its main or central part ▪ We *built* our program *around* the idea that people need love and support. ▪ Their lives are *built around* their children. [=their children are the most important things in their lives] ▪ The textbook *builds* lessons *around* grammar topics.

build in/into [*phrasal verb*] ***build in (something)*** *or* ***build (something) in*** *or* ***build (something) in/into (something)*** : to make (something) a part of (something else) ▪ Carmakers are beginning to *build in* these new safety features as standard equipment. = Carmakers are *building* these new safety features *into* new cars as standard equipment. ▪ We've *built* bookshelves *into* the wall. ▪ These ideas are *built into*

the program/system/design. ▪ There are special provisions for bonuses *built into* the contract. — see also BUILT-IN

build on/upon [*phrasal verb*] **1 *build on/upon (something)*** : to use (something that has been done in the past) as a basis for further work, development, etc. ▪ Each president *builds on/upon* the success of each past president. ▪ These classes will help students *build on* what they already know. ▪ *building upon* past experiences/successes **2 *build (something) on/upon (something)*** : to develop or create (something) by using (something else) as its basis ▪ He *built* [=*based*] his theory *on* recent studies. ▪ She has *built* her reputation as a talented artist *on* the strength of her earlier paintings. ▪ Their theory is *built upon* her research.

build onto [*phrasal verb*] ***build onto (something) or build (something) onto (something)*** : to add (a new room) to a structure that already exists ▪ They *built* a new garage *onto* their house. ▪ They *built onto* their house.

build up [*phrasal verb*] **1** : to increase gradually in amount as time passes : ACCUMULATE ▪ They pick up the garbage that *builds up* [=*collects*] along the highway. ▪ Dust has begun *building up* on his piano. ▪ These dangerous chemicals are *building up* in our lakes and ponds. **2 *build (something or someone) up or build up (something or someone)*** : to say many good things about (something or someone) ▪ Political candidates are trying to *build* themselves *up* [=promote themselves] with public speeches and TV commercials. ▪ The movie was *built up* so much [=we heard so many good things about the movie] that we were disappointed when we actually saw it. — see also [1]BUILD 2, 3, 4 (above), BUILDUP

[2]build *noun, pl* **builds** : the shape and size of a person's body [*count*] people with thin/slender/slight *builds* ▪ He has a strong, muscular *build*. [=*physique*] [*noncount*] He is strong and muscular in *build*. ▪ a man of average *build*

build•er /ˈbɪldɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]
1 : a person or company that builds or repairs things (such as houses, ships, bridges, etc.) ▪ The architect discussed her plans with the *builder* and the contractor. ▪ We will have to get the *builders* to repair the wall. — see also SHIPBUILDER
2 : something that helps to develop or increase something ▪ The army is said to be a character *builder*. ▪ The experience was a real confidence *builder*.

build•ing /ˈbɪldɪŋ/ *noun, pl* **-ings**
1 [*count*] : a structure (such as a house, hospital, school, etc.) with a roof and walls that is used as a place for people to live, work, do activities, store things, etc. ▪ My office is in that small brick *building*. ▪ office/apartment *buildings* [=buildings with offices/apartments inside]
2 [*noncount*] : the act or process of making structures by putting together materials ▪ We bought the land for *building*. — often + *of* ▪ He planned the *building* [=*construction*] *of* the town's roads and bridges. ▪ The *building of* the bridge took 10 years. — often used before another noun ▪ *building* materials/supplies ▪ a *building* contractor [=someone whose business is building structures] ▪ the *building* site

building block *noun, pl* **~ blocks** [*count*] : an important part that is grouped together with many other similar things to form something larger — usually plural; usually + *of* ▪ Families are the *building blocks of* our society. ▪ Cells are the *building blocks* of the body.

building society *noun, pl* **~ -ties** [*count*] : a British business that is like a bank, that holds and invests the money saved by its members, and that provides loans and mortgages — compare SAVINGS AND LOAN ASSOCIATION

build•up /ˈbɪldˌʌp/ *noun, pl* **-ups**
1 : an increase in something that occurs as time passes [*count*] the country's military *buildup* [=an increase in the size of its military] ▪ There is a big traffic *buildup* on the highway. — often + *of* ▪ He had a *buildup of* fluid in the lungs. ▪ a *buildup of* tension/pressure/stress [*noncount*] You should clean the mechanism regularly to prevent *buildup* of dirt.
2 : things that are said to cause people to feel excited about something (such as a future event) or someone (such as a performer) [*noncount*] After all the *buildup* [=*hype*, *publicity*], I expected the movie to be better than it actually was. [*count*] Both players were given big *buildups* before the game.
3 [*noncount*] : a series of things that lead to an important event or occurrence — + *to* ▪ There have been many news stories during the *buildup to* the peace talks. ▪ The story/movie/song has a great *buildup to* a terrific ending.

[1]built *past tense and past participle of* [1]BUILD

[2]built /ˈbɪlt/ *adj*
1 *not used before a noun* — used to say that someone or something has the right qualities *for* or *to do* something ▪ He was *built for* fighting. ▪ This horse is *built for* speed. ▪ These chairs were *built for* comfort. ▪ These tools are *built to last*. [=these tools will last a long time]
2 : made, formed, or shaped in a specified way ▪ a powerfully *built* wrestler ▪ a newly *built* house — often used in combination ▪ a brick-*built* house [=a house built of bricks] ▪ a Japanese-*built* car [=a car made in Japan] — see also CUSTOM-BUILT, JERRY-BUILT

built–in /ˈbɪltˈɪn/ *adj, always used before a noun*
1 : included as a part of something ▪ His new watch has a *built-in* calculator. ▪ a camera with a *built-in* flash ▪ the car's *built-in* safety features ▪ a *built-in* bookshelf [=a bookshelf that is built as part of a wall]
2 : forming a natural part of someone or something ▪ All humans have a *built-in* ability to learn their native language. ▪ Living in warmer climates has many *built-in* [=(more formally) *intrinsic*, *inherent*] advantages. — see also *build in/into* at [1]BUILD

built–up /ˈbɪltˈʌp/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : having many buildings in a small area ▪ Many people left the more heavily *built-up* areas of the city and moved to the suburbs.

bulb /ˈbʌlb/ *noun, pl* **bulbs** [*count*]
1 : LIGHT BULB ▪ a 100-watt *bulb* ▪ fluorescent *bulbs* — see also DIM BULB
2 : a rounded part of some plants that is under the ground and that grows into a new plant during the growing season ▪ tulip *bulbs* — see color picture on page C6
3 : a part that has a rounded shape ▪ the *bulb* of the thermometer/eyedropper

bul•bous /ˈbʌlbəs/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : big and round often in an unattractive way ▪ a big, *bulbous* nose

Bul•gar•i•an /ˌbʌlˈgerijən/ *noun, pl* **-ans**
1 [*count*] : a person born or living in Bulgaria
2 [*noncount*] : the chief language of the people of Bulgaria
– Bulgarian *adj* ▪ She speaks with a *Bulgarian* accent.

[1]bulge /ˈbʌlʤ/ *noun, pl* **bulg•es** [*count*]
1 : a rounded lump on the surface of something ▪ "What's in there?" he asked, pointing to the large *bulge* in my purse. ▪ I'm exercising to get rid of this *bulge* around my middle.
2 : a sudden increase ▪ a population *bulge*

[2]bulge *verb* **bulges**; **bulged**; **bulg•ing** [*no obj*]
1 : to stick out in a rounded lump ▪ His face turned white and his eyes *bulged*. ▪ middle-aged people *bulging* at the waist/middle — often + *out* ▪ Her eyes *bulged out* (of her head).
2 : to be completely filled *with* something ▪ Their bags *bulged with* books and papers. ▪ The squirrel's cheeks were *bulging with* nuts. ▪ a notebook *bulging with* ideas
– bulging *adj* ▪ *bulging* biceps/muscles ▪ big *bulging* eyes

bu•lim•ia /buˈliːmijə, *Brit* bjuˈlɪmiə/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a serious physical and emotional illness in which people and especially young women eat large amounts of food and then cause themselves to vomit in order to not gain weight — called also *bulimia nervosa*; compare ANOREXIA
– bu•lim•ic /buˈliːmɪk, *Brit* bjuˈlɪmɪk/ *adj* ▪ She became *bulimic* in high school. **– bulimic** *noun, pl* **-ics** [*count*] ▪ She's been a *bulimic* since high school.

[1]bulk /ˈbʌlk/ *noun*
1 *the bulk* : most of something : the largest part of something ▪ We spent *the bulk* of the summer at the beach. ▪ Farming makes up *the bulk* of the country's economy. ▪ *The* great *bulk* of these people are extremely poor.
2 [*noncount*] : the large size of someone or something ▪ Despite his *bulk*, he's a very fast runner. ▪ The sheer weight and *bulk* of the car makes it safe to drive. [=the car is safe because it is heavy and large]
in bulk : in large containers or in large amounts ▪ The restaurant buys rice and flour *in bulk*. [=it buys large bags of rice and flour]

[2]bulk *adj, always used before a noun* : of or relating to things that are sent or sold in large amounts ▪ *bulk* foods ▪ They sent *bulk* shipments of food to the country. ▪ *bulk* prices/rates ▪ *bulk* mailings/e-mail

[3]bulk *verb* **bulks**; **bulked**; **bulk•ing**
bulk large : to have great importance or influence ▪ This is a problem that *bulks large* [=*looms large*] in the minds of many people.
bulk out [*phrasal verb*] ***bulk out (something) or bulk (something) out*** : to make (something) bigger or thicker by add-

ing more material ▪ He *bulked out* the report with lots of graphs and charts.

bulk up [*phrasal verb*] **1** : to gain weight often by becoming more muscular ▪ He's *bulked up* to 200 pounds. ▪ She's been trying to *bulk up* at the gym. **2 a *bulk (someone) up*** : to cause (someone) to gain weight ▪ They tried to *bulk* him *up* with pizza and hamburgers. **b *bulk up (something)* or *bulk (something) up*** : to make (something) bigger or thicker by adding more material ▪ He *bulked up* the report with lots of graphs and charts.

bulk•head /ˈbʌlkˌhɛd/ *noun, pl* **-heads** [*count*] : a wall that separates the different parts of a ship or aircraft

bulky /ˈbʌlki/ *adj* **bulk•i•er; -est** [*also more ~; most ~*]
1 : large and difficult to carry or store ▪ a *bulky* wool sweater ▪ a big, *bulky* package
2 *of a person* : large and fat or muscular ▪ a big, *bulky* football player
– **bulk•i•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

[1]bull /ˈbʊl/ *noun, pl* **bulls** [*count*]
1 a : an adult male animal of the ox and cow family **b** : an adult male of some other large animals (such as elephants or whales) — often used before another noun ▪ a *bull* elephant ▪ a *bull* moose — compare CALF, COW; see also PIT BULL
2 *finance* : a person who tries to make money by buying stocks and selling them after their price has gone up : a person who expects the price of stocks to go up ▪ The bears outnumbered the *bulls* on Wall Street today. — compare [1]BEAR; see also BULL MARKET
a bull in a china shop : a person who breaks things or who often makes mistakes or causes damage in situations that require careful thinking or behavior ▪ As a politician, he was *a bull in a china shop* and often had to apologize for his rough speech.
a red rag to a bull see [1]RED
take the bull by the horns : to deal with a difficult situation in a very direct or confident way ▪ She decided to *take the bull by the horns* and try to solve the problem without any further delay.
– compare [2]BULL, [3]BULL

[2]bull *noun* [*noncount*] *informal* : foolish or untrue words or ideas ▪ That's a lot/load/bunch of *bull*! [=*nonsense*, (*offensive*) *bullshit*] — see also COCK-AND-BULL STORY; compare [1]BULL, [3]BULL

[3]bull *noun, pl* **bulls** [*count*] : an official command or statement written by the pope ▪ A ***papal bull*** was issued in 1582. — compare [1]BULL, [2]BULL

bull•dog /ˈbʊlˌdɑːg/ *noun, pl* **-dogs** [*count*] : a short, strong, muscular dog with short hair, short legs, and a wide square head

bull•doze /ˈbʊlˌdoʊz/ *verb* **-doz•es; -dozed; -doz•ing** [+ *obj*]
1 a : to use a bulldozer to move, destroy, or knock down (something) ▪ The crew is *bulldozing* the trees/forest/field. ▪ Their houses were *bulldozed* (flat) to make room for a new school. **b** : to create (something, such as a road) by using a bulldozer ▪ They *bulldozed* a road through the hills.
2 a : to force (something that others might not want to happen) to be done or accepted in an aggressive or harsh way ▪ The governor *bulldozed* the law through the legislature. **b** : to force (someone) to do something ▪ She *bulldozed* [=*bullied*] her partners into accepting the agreement even though they didn't like it.
bulldoze your way : to move forward while forcing other people to move out of your way ▪ They rudely *bulldozed their way* through the crowd. — often used figuratively ▪ He *bulldozed his way* to the top and became the company's president.

bull•doz•er /ˈbʊlˌdoʊzɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : a powerful and heavy vehicle that has a large curved piece of metal at its front and that is used for moving dirt and rocks and pushing over trees and other structures — see picture at CONSTRUCTION

bul•let /ˈbʊlət/ *noun, pl* **-lets** [*count*]
1 : a small piece of metal or another material that is shot out of a gun ▪ He was hit by a stray *bullet*. [=the bullet missed its target and hit him instead] ▪ He was killed by an assassin's *bullet*. ▪ He took a *bullet* to the head. [=he was shot in the head] — often used before another noun ▪ There are *bullet* holes in the walls. ▪ a *bullet* wound — see also MAGIC BULLET, RUBBER BULLET, SILVER BULLET
2 : a large dot in a document, book, etc., that brings attention to separate pieces of information in a list ▪ *Bullets* were used to separate each item. — see also BULLET POINT
3 *US, sports* : a hit or thrown ball or puck that is moving very fast ▪ The quarterback threw a *bullet* to the receiver.
bite the bullet see [1]BITE
dodge a/the bullet see [1]DODGE
sweat bullets see [1]SWEAT
– **bul•let•ed** /ˈbʊlətəd/ *adj* ▪ a *bulleted* list

bul•le•tin /ˈbʊlətən/ *noun, pl* **-tins** [*count*]
1 : a quick announcement from an official source about an important piece of news ▪ The television/radio program was interrupted for a news *bulletin*. ▪ We've just received a (news) *bulletin*: the election has been decided!
2 : a short piece of writing that an organization publishes to give news about itself : NEWSLETTER ▪ a church *bulletin*

bulletin board *noun, pl* **~ boards** [*count*]
1 *US* : a board on the wall of a classroom, office, etc., where things (such as written notices or pictures) are put so that they can be seen by many people ▪ Our teacher put our pictures up on the *bulletin board*. — called also (*Brit*) *noticeboard*; see picture at OFFICE
2 : MESSAGE BOARD

bullet point *noun, pl* **~ points** [*count*] : an item in a list that has a large dot (called a bullet) in front of it to show that it is important

bul•let•proof /ˈbʊlətˌpruːf/ *adj* : made to stop bullets from going through ▪ The car has *bulletproof* windows. ▪ The police officer was wearing a *bulletproof* vest.

bull•fight /ˈbʊlˌfaɪt/ *noun, pl* **-fights** [*count*] : an event that is popular especially in Spain in which a person fights with and usually kills a bull for public entertainment
– **bull•fight•er** /ˈbʊlˌfaɪtɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] – **bull•fight•ing** /ˈbʊlˌfaɪtɪŋ/ *noun* [*noncount*]

bull•finch /ˈbʊlˌfɪntʃ/ *noun, pl* **-finches** [*count*] : a small European bird

bull•frog /ˈbʊlˌfrɑːg/ *noun, pl* **-frogs** [*count*] : a large frog that makes a loud, deep sound

bull•head•ed /ˈbʊlˈhɛdəd/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] *chiefly US, disapproving* : not willing to change an opinion, plan, etc. : very stubborn in a foolish or annoying way ▪ a *bullheaded* boss who won't take advice from anyone


bullhorn

bull•horn /ˈbʊlˌhoɚn/ *noun, pl* **-horns** [*count*] *US* : an electrical device that is used for making your voice much louder so that you can be heard over a large distance — called also (*Brit*) *loudhailer*; compare MEGAPHONE

bul•lion /ˈbʊljən/ *noun* [*noncount*] : bars of gold or silver ▪ gold *bullion*

Do not confuse *bullion* with *bouillon*.

bull•ish /ˈbʊlɪʃ/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*]
1 : hopeful or confident that something or someone will be successful : optimistic about the future of something or someone ▪ Members of her party are *bullish* about her reelection. ▪ They are *bullish* about the future of the product. — often + *on* ▪ A lot of investors are *bullish on* the company's future.
2 : expecting the price of stocks to go up ▪ *bullish* investors : characterized by rising stock prices ▪ a *bullish* market — compare BEARISH

bull market *noun, pl* **~ -kets** [*count*] *technical* : a market (such as a stock market) in which prices are going up — compare BEAR MARKET

bull•ock /ˈbʊlək/ *noun, pl* **-ocks** [*count*] : a young bull that has had part of its sex organs removed so that it cannot breed

bull•pen /ˈbʊlˌpɛn/ *noun, pl* **~ pens** [*count*]
1 : a place on a baseball field where pitchers practice throwing the ball before they start pitching in a game ▪ A relief pitcher is warming up in the *bullpen*.
2 : the pitchers on a baseball team who can replace another pitcher during a game ▪ The team has a strong *bullpen*.

bull•ring /ˈbʊlˌrɪŋ/ *noun, pl* **-rings** [*count*] : a large circular area in which bullfights take place

bull session *noun, pl* **~ -sions** [*count*] *US, informal* : an informal conversation in which a group of people talk about something ▪ The governor had a *bull session* with his staff.

B

bull's–eye /ˈbʊlzˌaɪ/ *noun, pl* **-eyes** [*count*]
1 : the small circle at the center of a target toward which people throw darts or shoot arrows or bullets — usually singular ▪ Try to hit the *bull's-eye*. = Aim for/at the *bull's-eye*. — often used figuratively ▪ Her comments about our problems ***hit the bull's-eye*** [=her comments were exactly correct]
2 : a shot that hits the center of a target — usually singular ▪ You got/threw/shot/scored a *bull's-eye*!

[1]bull•shit /ˈbʊlˌʃɪt/ *noun* [*noncount*] *informal* + *offensive* : foolish or untrue words or ideas ▪ That's (a load of) complete/pure/total/utter *bullshit*! [=*nonsense*, *bull*] — often used before another noun ▪ He told some *bullshit* story about how he sailed around the world.

[2]bullshit *verb* **-shits**; **-shit**; **-shit•ting** *informal* + *offensive* : to say foolish or untrue things to (someone) : to lie to (someone) [+ *obj*] Don't *bullshit* me. Tell me the truth! ▪ He tried to ***bullshit his way*** through the interview. [=to fool the people who were interviewing him by saying things that were not true] [*no obj*] Stop *bullshitting* and tell me the truth.
– **bull•shit•ter** *noun, pl* **-ters** [*count*] ▪ Don't believe him. He's just a *bullshitter*.

bull terrier *noun, pl* ~ **-ers** [*count*] : a type of dog that is very strong and has short hair — compare PIT BULL

[1]bul•ly /ˈbʊli/ *noun, pl* **bul•lies** [*count*] : someone who frightens, hurts, or threatens smaller or weaker people ▪ *Bullies* would often pick on him or beat him up after school. ▪ My sister was the school/class/neighborhood *bully*.

[2]bully *verb* **bullies**; **bul•lied**; **bul•ly•ing** [+ *obj*]
1 : to frighten, hurt, or threaten (a smaller or weaker person) : to act like a bully toward (someone) ▪ A group of girls were *bullying* [=*picking on*] her at the playground. ▪ He *bullied* his younger brothers.
2 : to cause (someone) to do something by making threats or insults or by using force — usually + *into* ▪ His boss *bullied* him *into* working overtime. ▪ The kids were often *bullied* [=*forced*] *into* giving up their lunch money.
– **bullying** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ *Bullying* is not tolerated at school. ▪ verbal/political *bullying*

[3]bully *adj, informal* — used in phrases like ***bully for you*** to express approval or praise especially when the approval or praise is not sincere ▪ She won? Well, *bully for her*.

bul•ly•boy /ˈbʊliˌbɔɪ/ *noun, pl* **-boys** [*count*] *chiefly Brit* : an aggressive or violent man ▪ political *bullyboys* who threaten their opponents — often used before another noun ▪ uses *bullyboy* [=*strong-arm*] tactics to get what he wants

bully pulpit *noun, pl* ~ **-pits** [*count*] *US* : an important public position that allows a person to express beliefs and opinions to many people ▪ She uses her position as a famous actress as a *bully pulpit*.

bul•rush /ˈbʊlˌrʌʃ/ *noun, pl* **-rush•es** [*count*] *Brit* : CATTAIL

bul•wark /ˈbʊlˌwɚk/ *noun, pl* **-warks** [*count*]
1 *formal* : something that provides protection for or against something ▪ democratic principles that stand as a *bulwark* against tyranny ▪ a *bulwark* of freedom [=something that protects freedom]
2 : a wall that is built for protection : RAMPART
3 : a wall that is part of a ship's sides and that is above the ship's upper deck — usually plural ▪ the ship's high *bulwarks*

[1]bum /ˈbʌm/ *noun, pl* **bums** [*count*]
1 *chiefly US, informal* + *disapproving* : a person who has no place to live and no job and who asks people for money ▪ *Bums* [=*vagrants*] often sleep on the park's benches. ▪ a deserted building where *bums* [=*derelicts*] sometimes sleep
2 *informal* : a person who is lazy or who does something badly ▪ Get to work, you lazy *bum*! ▪ "He didn't even bother to write." "What a *bum*!"
3 : a person who spends a lot of time relaxing and doing something fun rather than working ▪ a beach *bum* [=a person who spends a lot of time at the beach] ▪ a ski *bum*
– compare [5]BUM

[2]bum *verb* **bums**; **bummed**; **bum•ming** [+ *obj*] *informal* : to get (something) for free by asking : to ask for and get (something) ▪ Can I *bum* [=*hitch*] a ride with you? ▪ She's always *bumming* cigarettes off people.
bum around *or Brit* ***bum about*** [*phrasal verb*] *informal* **1** ***bum around/about*** *or* ***bum around/about (a place)*** : to spend time relaxing in (a place) instead of working ▪ I spent the whole day just *bumming around* the house. **2** ***bum around/about (a place)*** : to spend time living and traveling in (a place) without a job or much money ▪ After graduation, she *bummed around* Mexico for a while.
– compare [3]BUM

[3]bum *verb* **bums**; **bummed**; **bum•ming** *US, informal*
1 [+ *obj*] : to cause (someone) to feel sad or disappointed — usually + *out* ▪ The news really *bummed* me *out*. = I was really *bummed* (*out*) by the news.
2 *always used in progressive tenses* [*no obj*] : to feel sad or disappointed about something ▪ She's *bumming* because she can't go to the concert.
– compare [2]BUM
– **bummed** *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] ▪ He's pretty *bummed* about not getting the scholarship.

[4]bum *adj, always used before a noun, informal*
1 : of bad quality ▪ We lost money thanks to your *bum* [=*bad*] advice. ▪ *bum* luck ▪ I got a *bum* deal on this car. [=this car is worth much less than what I paid for it] — see also *bum rap* at [1]RAP
2 : not legally acceptable : not valid ▪ He's known for writing/passing ***bum checks*** [=checks that promise money he does not have; checks that bounce]
3 *US* : injured or damaged ▪ He has a *bum* knee/ankle/leg. [=his knee/ankle/leg does not function properly, is painful, etc.]

[5]bum *noun, pl* **bums** [*count*] *chiefly Brit, informal* : the part of the body that you sit on : BUTTOCKS ▪ He slipped and fell on his *bum*. [=*behind*, *backside*, *bottom*] ▪ Get off your *bum* [=*butt*] and get to work!
get/put bums on seats *Brit, informal* : to attract people to see a movie, play, game, etc. ▪ She has the looks and voice that really *get/put bums on seats*.
– compare [1]BUM

bum•ble /ˈbʌmbəl/ *verb* **bum•bles**; **bum•bled**; **bum•bling**
1 : to act, move, or speak in an awkward or confusing way [*no obj*] I *bumbled* around in search of my glasses. ▪ He *bumbled* through the speech. [+ *obj*] He *bumbled* his way through the speech.
2 *US* : to do, make, or handle (something) badly [+ *obj*] I had one chance and I *bumbled* [=*bungled*] it. [*no obj*] Someone *bumbled* [=*blundered*] and told the story to the press.
– **bum•bler** /ˈbʌmblɚ/ *noun, pl* **-blers** [*count*] ▪ an incompetent *bumbler* – **bumbling** *adj* ▪ a *bumbling* attempt at a robbery ▪ a *bumbling* robber/man

bum•ble•bee /ˈbʌmbəlˌbi:/ *noun, pl* **-bees** [*count*] : a large, hairy bee — see color picture on page C10

bumf *also* **bumph** /ˈbʌmf/ *noun* [*noncount*] *Brit, informal* : material that is not important or interesting ▪ a lot of public relations *bumf* about the company's new products

bum•mer /ˈbʌmɚ/ *noun* [*singular*] *informal* : something that is unpleasant or disappointing ▪ That was a real *bummer* of a movie. ▪ You can't go? What a *bummer*!

[1]bump /ˈbʌmp/ *verb* **bumps**; **bumped**; **bump•ing**
1 [+ *obj*] **a** : to hit (something, such as part of your body) against an object in a sudden and forceful way ▪ I have a bruise from where I *bumped* my head. — often + *against* or *on* ▪ He *bumped* his head *against* the shelf. ▪ I fell and *bumped* my elbow *on* the floor. **b** : to hit and move (someone or something) ▪ Be careful not to *bump* the vase. ▪ You nearly *bumped* me off/over the edge! ▪ The jolt *bumped* him right out of his seat. ▪ He accidentally *bumped* [=*knocked*] my drink out of my hand when he passed by.
2 [*no obj*] : to move *into* or *against* (someone or something) in a sudden and forceful way ▪ They *bumped into* us from behind. ▪ The boat *bumped against* the pier. — often + *up* ▪ The boat *bumped up against* the pier. — sometimes used figuratively ▪ They're *bumping* (*up*) *against* the limits of technology. — see also BUMP INTO (below), BUMP UP (below)
3 [+ *obj*] **a** : to move (someone or something) to a different level, position, rank, etc. ▪ The TV show will be *bumped* to a new time. ▪ Increasing fuel costs are *bumping* the company's prices higher. **b** : to remove (someone or something) from a group or position ▪ The loss *bumped* us out of first place. — often used as *(be) bumped* ▪ The flight was overbooked, and I was the first to *be bumped*. [=my seat on the flight was the first seat to be given to someone else]
4 *always followed by an adverb or preposition* [*no obj*] : to move in an up and down motion over a rough surface ▪ The truck *bumped* along the dirt road.
bump into [*phrasal verb*] ***bump into (someone)*** *informal* : to meet (someone) by chance : to see and usually talk to (someone you did not expect to see) ▪ I *bumped into* [=*ran into*] a friend at the store. — see also [1]BUMP 2 (above)
bump off [*phrasal verb*] ***bump (someone) off*** *or* ***bump off (someone)*** *informal* : to murder (someone) ▪ He knew too

much, so they *bumped* him *off*.

bump up [*phrasal verb*] ***bump up (something or someone)*** *or* ***bump (something or someone) up*** *informal* : to move (something or someone) to a higher level, position, rank, etc. ▪ Prices are being *bumped up*. [=*raised*] ▪ They're *bumping* her *up* [=promoting her] to district manager. — see also [1]BUMP 2 (above)

[2]bump *noun, pl* **bumps** [*count*]

1 : an area of skin that is raised because it was hit, injured, etc. ▪ He wound up with a few minor *bumps* and bruises from the fight. ▪ Feel this *bump* [=*lump*] on the back of my head. — see also GOOSE BUMPS

2 : a small raised area on a surface ▪ The car hit a *bump* (in the road). — often used figuratively in U.S. English ▪ His career hit a *bump* in the road. = His career hit a road *bump*. [=something happened that slowed the progress of his career] ▪ When you're doing something for the first time, you're bound to hit a few *bumps* along the way. — see also SPEED BUMP

3 : an act of something hitting against something else ▪ Did you feel/hear a *bump*? ▪ The airplane landed ***with a bump***. [=the airplane went up again and then down when it hit the ground]

4 : the act of pushing the hips forward in a sexual way ▪ a dancer doing the *bump* and grind — compare GRIND

[1]bum•per /ˈbʌmpɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : a bar across the front or back of a car, truck, etc., that reduces the damage if the vehicle hits something ▪ the car's front/rear *bumper* — see picture at CAR

[2]bumper *adj, always used before a noun*

1 : unusually large ▪ We had a ***bumper crop*** of tomatoes this year.

2 : very good or successful ▪ It's a *bumper* [=(more commonly) *banner*] year for tomatoes. ▪ a *bumper* harvest/season

bumper car *noun, pl* ~ **cars** [*count*] *chiefly US* : a small electric car that you drive around in a small area at an amusement park and use to try to hit other cars

bumper sticker *noun, pl* ~ **-ers** [*count*] : a strip of paper or plastic that has a printed message and that is made to be stuck on the bumper of a car, truck, etc.

bumper–to–bumper *adj* : made up of long lines of cars that are very close to each other ▪ *bumper-to-bumper* traffic ▪ The cars on the highway were *bumper-to-bumper*. [=the cars were very close to each other]

bumph *variant spelling of* BUMF

bump•kin /ˈbʌmpkən/ *noun, pl* **-kins** [*count*] *informal* : a person who lives in the country far away from cities and who is regarded as stupid ▪ country *bumpkins*

bump•tious /ˈbʌmpʃəs/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *disapproving* : proud or confident in a loud and rude way that annoys other people ▪ a *bumptious* young man ▪ *bumptious* behavior

bumpy /ˈbʌmpi/ *adj* **bump•i•er**; **-est** [*or more* ~; *most* ~]

1 *of a surface* : having or covered with bumps ▪ The road is very *bumpy*. ▪ the *bumpy* skin of a cucumber — opposite SMOOTH

2 : having sudden up and down movements ▪ The flight was very *bumpy*. ▪ The road was rough so we had a *bumpy* ride. ▪ a *bumpy* journey — opposite SMOOTH

3 : having a lot of problems ▪ a *bumpy* relationship ▪ The project got off to a *bumpy* [=*rocky*] start, but it's back on schedule now. ▪ Production of the movie has been a *bumpy* ride. [=there have been a lot of problems during the production of the movie] — opposite SMOOTH

– **bump•i•ness** *noun* [*noncount*]

bum–rush /ˈbʌmˈrʌʃ/ *verb* **-rush•es**; **-rushed**; **-rush•ing** [+ *obj*] *chiefly US* : to attack or move toward (someone or something) in a forceful and violent way ▪ They *bum-rushed* him from behind. ▪ Angry spectators *bum-rushed* the stage.

bum's rush *noun*

the bum's rush *chiefly US, informal* : the act of forcing someone to leave a position or place ▪ The mayor is likely to ***get the bum's rush*** in next year's election. ▪ They ***gave him the bum's rush***.

bun /ˈbʌn/ *noun, pl* **buns**

1 [*count*] : a small, round or long bread for one person to eat ▪ tuna salad served on a *bun* [=*roll*] ▪ a hamburger/hotdog *bun*

2 [*count*] : a small, usually round sweet cake ▪ cinnamon *buns* — see also STICKY BUN

3 [*count*] : a way of arranging long hair by twisting it into a round shape at the sides or back of the head ▪ She wears her hair in a *bun*.

4 buns [*plural*] *US, informal* : the two soft parts of the body that you sit on : BUTTOCKS ▪ This exercise will firm up your *buns*.

have a bun in the oven *informal* : to be pregnant ▪ Rumor has it, she *has a bun in the oven*.

[1]bunch /ˈbʌnʧ/ *noun, pl* **bunch•es**

1 [*count*] : a group of things of the same kind that are held or tied together or that grow together ▪ a *bunch* of flowers/grapes ▪ He always had a *bunch* of keys on his belt. ▪ Dried herbs hung in *bunches* from the kitchen rafters.

2 [*count*] *somewhat informal* : a group of people or things that are together or are associated with each other in some way — usually singular ▪ a nice *bunch* of people ▪ A *bunch* of us are going out for lunch. ▪ They're a pretty wild *bunch* (of people). ▪ All his books are good, but this one is the best/pick of the *bunch*.

3 *chiefly US, somewhat informal* : a large amount : LOT [*singular*] Thanks a *bunch*. — usually + *of* ▪ We spent a *bunch of* money on our vacation. ▪ having a (whole) *bunch of* problems ▪ What a *bunch of* nonsense! [*plural*] They make *bunches* [=*lots*] *of* money.

4 bunches [*plural*] *Brit* : a way of arranging hair by separating it into two sections and tying these at each side of the head ▪ She wore her hair in *bunches*. [=(*US*) *ponytails*]

[2]bunch *verb* **bunches**; **bunched**; **bunch•ing**

1 a [+ *obj*] : to put (things or people) together in a group or bunch — usually + *together* or *up* ▪ They *bunched* [=*grouped*] the rest *together* under the category of "Miscellaneous." ▪ She had *bunched* [=*gathered*] her curly hair *up* into a messy ponytail. — often used as *(be) bunched* ▪ The flowers *are bunched together* in one corner of the yard. ▪ The words *were* all *bunched together* at the bottom of the page. **b** [*no obj*] : to form a group — usually + *together* ▪ The baby birds *bunch* [=(more commonly) *huddle*] *together* for warmth.

2 *of clothing* : to form a group of tight folds on or around part of your body [*no obj*] The child's tights *bunched* at the ankles. — usually + *up* or *together* ▪ The sweater's long sleeves kept *bunching up* around her wrists. [+ *obj*] — usually + *up* or *together*; usually used as *(be) bunched* ▪ The tights *were bunched together* at the ankles. ▪ The sweater's long sleeves kept getting all *bunched up* around her wrists.

buncombe *variant spelling of* BUNKUM

[1]bun•dle /ˈbʌndəl/ *noun, pl* **bun•dles** [*count*]

1 a : a group of things that are fastened, tied, or wrapped together ▪ He arrived with several *bundles* [=*packages, parcels*] under his arms. — often + *of* ▪ a *bundle of* straw/newspapers/clothes **b** : a group *of* things that are together or are associated with each other in some way ▪ Whoever picks the winning ticket will win a *bundle of* prizes.

2 *informal* : a person who has a lot of some quality or who is known for a particular kind of behavior — + *of* ▪ You're just a *bundle of* contradictions! [=you say or do things that seem to go against other things you say or do] ▪ She's a ***bundle of energy***. [=she's very energetic] ▪ I was a ***bundle of nerves***. [=I was very nervous] ✧ The phrase ***(little) bundle of joy*** is used as a humorous or affectionate way of referring to a baby. ▪ He's our *little bundle of joy*.

3 *informal* : a large amount of money ▪ He made/lost a *bundle* on the stock market. ▪ A reliable car doesn't have to cost a *bundle*. ▪ They made *bundles* of money.

4 : a group of products or services that are sold together at a single price ▪ software *bundles*

go a bundle on *Brit, informal* : to like or be interested (something) very much. — usually used in negative statements ▪ I don't usually *go a bundle on* science fiction, but this book is really good.

[2]bundle *verb* **bun•dles**; **bun•dled**; **bun•dling**

1 [+ *obj*] : to fasten, tie, or wrap a group of things together : to make (a group of things) into a bundle ▪ Someone had *bundled* the wet towels into a big pile. — usually + *up* or *together* ▪ I *bundled* the papers *together*. ▪ *Bundle up* the newspapers.

2 : to move or push (someone) *into* a place quickly [+ *obj*] She *bundled* the children *into* the car. [*no obj*] We all *bundled into* the car.

3 [+ *obj*] : to include (a product or service) with another product or service so that they are sold together ▪ They've increased sales by *bundling* their most popular programs. ▪ a computer that comes with *bundled* software — often + *with* ▪ The software is *bundled with* the computer.

bundle off [*phrasal verb*] ***bundle (someone) off*** *or* ***bundle off (someone)*** : to send (someone) to a place quickly or sud-

denly ▪ He *bundled* the children *off* to school. ▪ She was *bundled off* to summer camp.

bundle up [*phrasal verb*] ***bundle up*** *or* ***bundle (someone) up*** *or* ***bundle up (someone)*** : to dress (yourself or someone else) warmly ▪ Be sure to *bundle up*. It's cold out there. ▪ She *bundled up* the children. ▪ He was (all) *bundled up* in a hat and scarf.

[1]bung /ˈbʌŋ/ *noun, pl* **bungs** [*count*]

1 : a piece of wood, rubber, etc., that is used to close or cover a hole in a barrel

2 *Brit, informal* : BRIBE ▪ thousands of pounds in illegal *bungs*

[2]bung *verb* **bungs**; **bunged**; **bung•ing** [+ *obj*] *Brit, informal* : to put (something) *in* or *into* a place in a quick and careless way ▪ Just *bung* [=*toss*] it *in* the oven for 20 minutes. ▪ *Bung* [=*throw*] all the ingredients *into* the bowl, stir a bit, and it's done.

bung up [*phrasal verb*] ***bung up (something)*** *or* ***bung (something) up*** *Brit, informal* : to block (something) so that liquid, air, etc., cannot move through it ▪ Leaves had *bunged up* [=*plugged up, stopped up*] the drain. ▪ My nose is (all) *bunged up*. [=*stuffed up*]

bun•ga•low /ˈbʌŋgəˌloʊ/ *noun, pl* **-lows** [*count*]

1 : a house that is all on one level

2 *US* : a house that has one main level and a second smaller level above

bun•gee cord /ˈbʌnʤi-/ *noun, pl* ~ **cords** [*count*] : a very strong rope that can be stretched and that has hooks on either end — called also *bungee*

bungee jump *verb* ~ **jumps**; ~ **jumped**; ~ **jumping** [*no obj*] : to jump from a very high place while you are attached to a strong, long rope that stretches and that keeps you from hitting the ground ▪ A few people were *bungee jumping* off the bridge while a crowd of people looked on.

– **bungee jump** *noun, pl* ~ **jumps** [*count*] ▪ She did her first *bungee jump* last summer. – **bungee jumper** *noun, pl* ~ **-ers** [*count*] – **bungee jumping** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ He likes daring sports like *bungee jumping* and skydiving.

bun•gle /ˈbʌŋgəl/ *verb* **bun•gles**; **bun•gled**; **bun•gling** : to make mistakes in doing (something) : to not do (something) well or successfully [+ *obj*] The police *bungled* [=*botched*] the investigation and the crime was never solved. [*no obj*] The government *bungled* badly in planning the campaign.

– **bungle** *noun, pl* **bun•gles** [*count*] ▪ They blamed him for the *bungle*. – **bungled** *adj* ▪ a *bungled* robbery – **bungler** *noun, pl* **-glers** [*count*] ▪ hapless *bunglers* – **bungling** *adj* ▪ a *bungling* attempt at humor – **bungling** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ The investigation was ruined by their *bungling*.

bun•ion /ˈbʌnjən/ *noun, pl* **-ions** [*count*] : a painful swelling on the side of the big toe

[1]bunk /ˈbʌŋk/ *noun, pl* **bunks** [*count*]

1 : either one of two single beds that are placed one above the other : either one of the beds in a bunk bed ▪ He sleeps in the top/bottom *bunk*.

2 : a narrow bed attached to a wall on a ship, train, etc.

– compare [3]BUNK, [4]BUNK

[2]bunk *verb* **bunks**; **bunked**; **bunk•ing** [*no obj*] *chiefly US* : to stay overnight at a place ▪ We'll *bunk* here for the night. ▪ She was able to *bunk* with friends. — compare [5]BUNK

[3]bunk *noun* [*noncount*] *informal* : foolish or untrue words or ideas : NONSENSE ▪ His story is pure *bunk*. [=*bunkum*] ▪ All that talk about ghosts is (just) a lot of *bunk*. — compare [1]BUNK, [4]BUNK

[4]bunk *noun*

do a bunk *Brit, informal* : to leave a place suddenly and without telling anyone ▪ They *did a bunk* to avoid paying the rent.

– compare [1]BUNK, [3]BUNK

[5]bunk *verb* **bunks**; **bunked**; **bunking**

bunk off [*phrasal verb*] ***bunk off*** *or* ***bunk off (something)*** *Brit, informal* : to not go to (school, work, etc.) ▪ We used to *bunk off* school as kids. : to leave early from school, work, etc. ▪ He *bunked off* early last Friday.

– compare [2]BUNK

bunk bed *noun, pl* ~ **beds** [*count*] : a type of bed for two people that has two single beds placed so that one is above the other — see picture at BED

[1]bun•ker /ˈbʌŋkɚ/ *noun, pl* **-kers** [*count*]

1 : a strong building that is mostly below ground and that is used to keep soldiers, weapons, etc., safe from attacks ▪ The ammunition is stored in concrete *bunkers*. — see also BUNKER MENTALITY

2 *golf* : an area on a golf course that is filled with sand : SAND TRAP ▪ a fairway *bunker*

3 : a container for holding coal, oil, etc., on a ship or outside a house ▪ a coal *bunker*

[2]bunker *verb* **-kers**; **-kered**; **-ker•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 *golf* : to hit (a golf ball) into a bunker ▪ She *bunkered* her tee shot. ▪ He ***was bunkered*** [=his ball was in a bunker] on the second hole.

2 : to place or store (coal, oil, etc.) in a bunker ▪ They *bunkered* just enough coal to get them to the port.

bunker mentality *noun* [*singular*] *disapproving* : a very defensive way of thinking by the members of a group who believe that they are being wrongly attacked or criticized by others ▪ Faced with the threat of scandal, the company adopted a *bunker mentality* and refused to talk with reporters.

bunk•house /ˈbʌŋkˌhaʊs/ *noun, pl* **-hous•es** [*count*] : a building in which workers sleep

bun•kum *also* **bun•combe** /ˈbʌŋkəm/ *noun* [*noncount*] *old-fashioned* + *informal* : foolish or untrue words or ideas : NONSENSE, BUNK ▪ What a load of *bunkum*!

bun•ny /ˈbʌni/ *noun, pl* **-nies** [*count*] *informal* : a rabbit; *especially* : a young rabbit — used especially by children or when talking to children ▪ Look at the cute little *bunny*! — called also *bunny rabbit*; see also DUST BUNNY

bunny slope *noun, pl* ~ **slopes** [*count*] *US* : a hill or part of hill that is not very steep and that is used by people who are learning how to ski — called also *bunny hill*, (*Brit*) *nursery slope*

Bun•sen burner /ˈbʌnsən-/ *noun, pl* ~ **-ers** [*count*] : a piece of equipment that produces a hot flame and that is used in scientific experiments

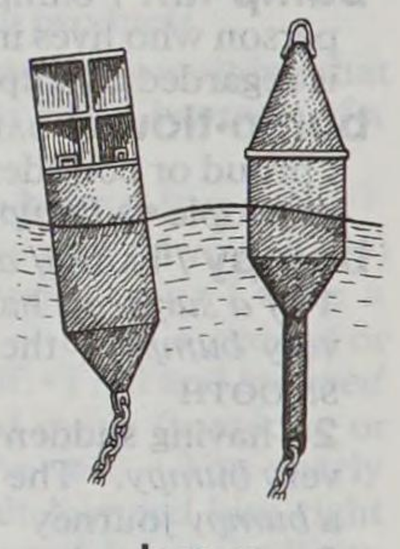
bunt /ˈbʌnt/ *verb* **bunts**; **bunt•ed**; **bunt•ing** *baseball* : to hit a baseball lightly with the bat so that the ball rolls only for a short distance [*no obj*] The batter *bunted* for a single. [+ *obj*] He *bunted* the ball toward third base.

– **bunt** *noun, pl* **bunts** [*count*] ▪ He dropped/laid (down) a *bunt*. – **bunt•er** *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] ▪ an expert *bunter*

[1]bun•ting /ˈbʌntɪŋ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : flags or decorations that are made of thin cloth or paper ▪ The city decorated its streets and buildings with *bunting*. — compare [2]BUNTING

[2]bun•ting *noun, pl* **-tings** [*count*] : any one of several small and often colorful birds — compare [1]BUNTING

[1]buoy /ˈbuːwi, ˈboɪ/ *noun, pl* **buoys** [*count*] : an object that floats on water in a lake, bay, river, etc., to show areas that are safe or dangerous for boats — see also LIFE BUOY



buoys

[2]buoy *verb* **buoys**; **buoyed**; **buoy•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to cause (someone) to feel happy or confident — usually used as *(be) buoyed* ▪ *Buoyed* by the success of her first novel, she began work on a second. — often + *up* ▪ He felt *buoyed up* by the support and encouragement of his friends and family.

2 : to lift or improve (something) ▪ The tax breaks should help to *buoy* the economy. — usually used as *(be) buoyed* ▪ His spirits *were buoyed* [=*uplifted, raised*] by the good news. — often + *up* ▪ The falling leaf *was buoyed up* by a current of air.

buoy•an•cy /ˈbojənsi/ *noun* [*noncount*]

1 a : the ability of an object to float in water or air ▪ the natural *buoyancy* of cork **b** : the power of a liquid to make someone or something float ▪ The swimmer is supported by the water's *buoyancy*.

2 : the ability of someone or something to continue to be happy, strong, etc., through difficult times ▪ We hope that the economy will maintain its *buoyancy*.

buoy•ant /ˈbojənt/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

1 a : able to float ▪ Cork is very *buoyant*. ▪ a *buoyant* material **b** : able to cause things to float ▪ Warm air is more *buoyant* than cool air.

2 : happy and confident ▪ The actors were *buoyant* as they prepared for the evening's performance. ▪ in a *buoyant* mood

3 : able to stay at a regular or high level ▪ a *buoyant* economy/market

– **buoy•ant•ly** *adv* ▪ *buoyantly* cheerful/confident

bur *variant spelling of* BURR 1

bur•ble /ˈbəbəl/ *verb* **bur•bles**; **bur•bled**; **bur•bling** [*no obj*]
1 : to make the quiet sound of water moving over rocks ▪ We heard a fountain *burbling* [=*gurgling, bubbling*] nearby.
2 a : to talk foolishly or too much ▪ He *burbled* [=(more commonly) *babbled, chattered, prattled*] on for hours about his trip. **b** *of a baby* : to make quiet and happy sounds ▪ The baby *burbled* happily in her crib.

burbs /ˈbəbz/ *noun*
the burbs *US, informal* : the area around a city in which many people live : the suburbs ▪ They bought a house in *the burbs*.

[1]bur•den /ˈbədn̩/ *noun, pl* **-dens** [*count*]
1 : something heavy that is carried : LOAD ▪ They feared the donkey would collapse under the extra *burden*. — see also BEAST OF BURDEN
2 : someone or something that is very difficult to accept, do, or deal with ▪ a (heavy) *burden* of sorrow/guilt ▪ She had to bear/shoulder the *burden* of caring for her aging parents. ▪ The ***tax burden*** has been falling increasingly on the middle class. [=middle class people have been paying a greater portion of taxes] ▪ The ***burden of proof*** is on the plaintiff, since the defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty. [=the plaintiff must prove that the defendant is guilty] ▪ the company's large ***debt burden*** [=the large amount of money that the company owes] — often + *on* ▪ His illness has placed a huge financial *burden on* the family. ▪ I'm sorry to be such a *burden on* you.
burden has been lifted from your shoulders/back see [1]LIFT

[2]burden *verb* **-dens**; **-dened**; **-den•ing** [+ *obj*] : to make (someone) hold or carry something heavy or accept or deal with something difficult : to put a heavy burden on (someone) ▪ I don't wish to *burden* you with my problems. — usually used as *(be) burdened* ▪ *Burdened* with supplies and equipment, she headed to the camp. ▪ For the rest of his life he *was burdened* with the knowledge that he had done nothing to help them. ▪ *burdened* [=weighed down] by guilt

bur•den•some /ˈbədn̩səm/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : causing difficulty or worry ▪ a *burdensome* task/load ▪ The responsibility has become *burdensome*.

bu•reau /ˈbjʊroʊ/ *noun, pl* **-reaus** *also Brit* **-reaux** /ˈbjʊroʊz/ [*count*]
1 a : a government department or part of a government department in the U.S. ▪ the Federal *Bureau* of Investigation ▪ the Census *Bureau* **b** : an office of a newspaper, magazine, etc., that is not the main office but is in an important city ▪ the newspaper's Washington/Moscow *bureau* **c** : an office or organization that provides services or information to the public ▪ a credit/travel *bureau* ▪ the local visitors' *bureau*
2 a *US* : a piece of furniture with several drawers in which clothes are kept : CHEST OF DRAWERS ▪ The book is on top of my *bureau*. **b** *Brit* : WRITING DESK

bu•reau•cra•cy /bjʊˈrɑːkrəsi/ *noun, pl* **-cies**
1 [*count*] : a large group of people who are involved in running a government but who are not elected ▪ state/city *bureaucracies*
2 [*noncount*] *often disapproving* : a system of government or business that has many complicated rules and ways of doing things ▪ management by *bureaucracy* ▪ She was fed up with all the red tape and *bureaucracy*. ▪ Both candidates pledge to simplify the state's bloated *bureaucracy*.

bu•reau•crat /ˈbjʊrəˌkræt/ *noun, pl* **-crats** [*count*] *often disapproving* : a person who is one of the people who run a government or big company and who does everything according to the rules of that government or company : a person who is part of a bureaucracy ▪ government *bureaucrats*

bu•reau•crat•ic /ˌbjʊrəˈkrætɪk/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : using or connected with many complicated rules and ways of doing things : of, relating to, or like a bureaucracy or bureaucrat ▪ a *bureaucratic* institution/organization ▪ *bureaucratic* hassles/power/procedures
– **bu•reau•crat•i•cal•ly** /ˌbjʊrəˈkrætɪkli/ *adv*

bur•geon /ˈbədʒən/ *verb* **-geons**; **-geoned**; **-geon•ing** [*no obj*] *formal* : to grow or develop quickly ▪ The market for collectibles has *burgeoned* in recent years.
– **burgeoning** *adj* ▪ a *burgeoning* industry/field/population

bur•ger /ˈbəgə/ *noun, pl* **-gers** [*count*]
1 : HAMBURGER ▪ a grilled *burger* ▪ I'll have a *burger* with fries, please.
2 : a food that is like a hamburger but that is not made from beef ▪ a turkey/tofu *burger* — see also VEGGIE BURGER

bur•gher /ˈbəgə/ *noun, pl* **-ghers** [*count*] *old-fashioned* : a person who lives in a particular town or borough ▪ the *burghers* of Vienna

bur•glar /ˈbəgə/ *noun, pl* **-glars** [*count*] : a person who illegally enters a building in order to steal things : a person who commits burglary — see also CAT BURGLAR

burglar alarm *noun, pl* ~ **alarms** [*count*] : a device that makes a loud noise (such as a ringing sound) if someone tries to enter a building by using force

bur•glar•ize /ˈbəgləˌraɪz/ *verb* **-iz•es**; **-ized**; **-iz•ing** [+ *obj*] *US* : to illegally enter (a building) and steal things ▪ They were caught *burglarizing* [=*burgling*] a jewelry store. ▪ Their house was *burglarized*. = They were *burglarized*.

bur•glary /ˈbəgləri/ *noun, pl* **-glar•ies** : the act of illegally entering a building in order to steal things [*count*] There have been a number of *burglaries* in the neighborhood in recent months. [*noncount*] He has been charged with attempted *burglary*.

bur•gle /ˈbəgəl/ *verb* **bur•gles**; **bur•gled**; **bur•gling** [+ *obj*] : BURGLARIZE

bur•gun•dy /ˈbəgəndi/ *noun, pl* **-dies**
1 ***Burgundy*** : a red or white wine made in Burgundy, France [*count*] a red/white *Burgundy* [*noncount*] a bottle of *Burgundy*
2 [*count, noncount*] : a reddish-purple color — see color picture on page C3
– **burgundy** *adj* ▪ *burgundy* velvet ▪ a deep *burgundy* color

buri•al /ˈberijəl/ *noun, pl* **-als**
1 : the act or ceremony of burying a dead person in a grave [*noncount*] They prepared the body for *burial*. [*count*] She wanted to give him a proper *burial*. ▪ Did you attend the *burial*? — often used before another noun ▪ a *burial* chamber/site ▪ ancient *burial* rites/customs ▪ an ancient ***burial ground*** [=an area of land where dead people were buried in ancient times]
2 [*noncount*] : the act of burying something in the ground ▪ The law prohibits the *burial* of toxic substances without special permits.

bur•ka *or* **bur•qa** /ˈbʊəkə/ *noun, pl* **-kas** *or* **-qas** [*count*] : a long piece of clothing that covers the face and body and that is worn by some Muslim women in public places

bur•lap /ˈbəˌlæp/ *noun* [*noncount*] *US* : a strong, rough fabric that is used mostly for making bags ▪ The bag is made of *burlap*. — often used before another noun ▪ a *burlap* bag — called also (*Brit*) *hessian*

bur•lesque /bəˈlɛsk/ *noun, pl* **-lesques**
1 : a play, story, novel, etc., that makes a serious subject seem funny or ridiculous [*count*] The book is a *burlesque* of Victorian society. [*noncount*] a writer whose *burlesque* often bordered on cruelty
2 [*noncount*] : a kind of entertainment that was popular in the U.S. in the late 19th and early 20th centuries and that included funny performances, singing, dancing, etc., and sometimes performances in which women took off their clothes ▪ Several important 20th-century performers got their start in *burlesque*.
– **burlesque** *adj* ▪ *burlesque* dancers ▪ a *burlesque* show

bur•ly /ˈbəli/ *adj* **bur•li•er**; **-est** [*or more ~; most ~*] *of a man* : strong and heavy : HUSKY ▪ a big, *burly* man

[1]burn /ˈbən/ *verb* **burns**; **burned** /ˈbənd/ *or* **burnt** /ˈbənt/; **burn•ing** ✧ The forms *burned* and *burnt* are used in both U.S. and British English. *Burned* is more common in U.S. English; *burnt* is more common in British English.
1 [*no obj*] **a** *of a fire or flame* : to give off heat, light, and gases ▪ A flame is kept constantly *burning* at the monument. ▪ A small fire *burned* brightly in the fireplace. **b** *always used in progressive tenses* : to contain a fire ▪ There was a little stove *burning* in the front room. — see also BURNING
2 a *always used in progressive tenses* [*no obj*] : to be on fire : to have or produce a flame ▪ I could smell smoke and knew that something was *burning*. ▪ Be sure not to leave any candles *burning* when you go to bed. **b** [+ *obj*] : to set (something) on fire : to make (something) have or produce a flame ▪ We came to the memorial to *burn* [=*light*] a candle for the victims of the accident.
3 a : to destroy or damage (something) by fire or heat [+ *obj*] I *burned* the letter when I had finished reading it. ▪ The new town law makes it illegal to *burn* trash. ▪ The wildfire has *burned* acres of forest. ▪ Parts of the house were badly *burned* in the fire. ▪ *burnt* pieces of wood [*no obj*] The wood *burned* slowly. ▪ a material that *burns* easily ✧ A building or

other structure that ***burns to the ground*** or ***is burned to the ground*** is completely destroyed by fire. ▪ The house (*was*) *burned to the ground* in the fire. **b** : to injure or damage (someone or a part of the body) by fire, heat, acid, etc. [+ *obj*] He was badly *burned* in the accident. ▪ She *burned* her hand on the hot stove. = The hot stove *burned* her hand. ▪ The hot sun *burned* her skin. ▪ I ***burned myself*** on the iron. [=I injured part of my body with the hot iron] ▪ Several people were trapped in the building and were ***burned to death***. [=were killed by fire] ▪ The captives were ***burned alive***. [=killed by being set on fire] [*no obj*] She has to stay out of the sun because her skin *burns* easily. [=she gets sunburned easily] ▪ Several people *burned to death* in the fire.

4 : to ruin (food) by cooking it too long or with too much heat [+ *obj*] I'm afraid I *burned* the potatoes. ▪ She *burned* the toast. ▪ *burnt* toast [*no obj*] The toast *burned*.

5 a *of an acid, chemical, etc.* : to damage (something) by causing a strong chemical reaction [+ *obj*] The acid *burned* his hand. [*no obj*] The acid *burned* into/through the metal. — sometimes used figuratively ▪ Her words *burned* themselves into his memory. = Her words were *burned* into his memory. [=he always remembered her words] ▪ The image is *burned* in my mind. [=I cannot forget the image] **b** [+ *obj*] : to produce (something, such as a hole) by fire, heat, acid, etc. ▪ He dropped his cigarette and accidentally *burned* a hole in the carpet. ▪ The acid *burned* a hole in the cloth. ✧ If you have money and you want to spend it, the money is ***burning a hole in your pocket***. ▪ He just got his tax refund and has some extra cash *burning a hole in his pocket*.

6 *always used in progressive tenses* [*no obj*] : to be very hot ▪ The pavement was *burning*. — see also BURNING

7 a : to have or produce an unpleasantly hot and painful feeling [+ *obj*] The hot peppers *burned* my mouth. ▪ The cigarette smoke *burned* my throat and made my eyes water. [*no obj*] My mouth is still *burning* from the hot peppers. ▪ The iodine *burned* a little when I put it on the cut. **b** [*no obj*] : to feel a pain that is like being injured by heat or fire ▪ My nose was bright red and my ears were *burning* from the cold. **c** *always used in progressive tenses* [*no obj*] : to have a high fever ▪ She was *burning* with fever. — often + *up* ▪ I'm going to call the doctor: you're *burning up*! — see also BURN UP (below), BURNING

8 [*no obj*] **a** : to feel a strong emotion — often + *with* ▪ She was *burning with* anger at his rudeness. [=she was very angry because of his rudeness] ▪ As a young man he *burned with* ambition. [=he was very ambitious] — sometimes + *for* ▪ She was *burning for* a chance to prove herself. [=she wanted very much to get a chance to prove herself] — sometimes followed by *to* + *verb* ▪ She was *burning to prove* herself. **b** : to become hot and red because of a strong emotion ▪ Her cheeks were *burning*. — often + *with* ▪ Her cheeks were *burning with* shame. ▪ His face *burned with* anger/embarrassment.

9 [+ *obj*] *US, informal* **a** : to cheat or deceive (someone) : to take advantage of (someone) — usually used as *(be) burned* ▪ He doesn't like giving interviews because he's been/gotten *burned* by reporters in the past. [=reporters have treated him unfairly in the past] ▪ He's *been burned* in love before. **b** : to make (someone) very angry ▪ It really *burns* me to see people being treated so badly. — usually + *up* ▪ His arrogance really *burns* me *up*! — see also BURN UP (below)

10 a [*no obj*] : to be used as fuel ▪ Some kinds of coal *burn* better than others. **b** [+ *obj*] : to use (something) as fuel ▪ This furnace *burns* oil/gas. — often + *up* ▪ an engine that *burns up* more fuel **c** [+ *obj*] : to use (food, calories, etc.) as a source of energy ▪ Our bodies *burn* food/calories. ▪ exercising to *burn* fat [=exercising to lose fat by using it to produce energy] — often + *off* or *up* ▪ exercising to *burn off/up* calories/fat ▪ Your body *burns up* more oxygen when you are active than when you are resting. — see also BURN OFF (below), BURN UP (below)

11 [*no obj*] : to give off light : to shine or glow ▪ There was a light *burning* in the window. ▪ a star that *burns* brightly in the evening sky ▪ Lanterns *burned* in the boats on the canal.

12 [+ *obj*] *computers* : to record information or music on a disk ▪ *burn* a CD/DVD ▪ You can buy the songs online and then *burn* them onto a CD.

burn away [*phrasal verb*] ***burn away*** *or* ***burn (something) away*** *or* ***burn away (something)*** : to be removed or to remove (something) by fire or heat ▪ The outer layer of wooden shingles *burned away* quickly in the fire. = The fire quickly *burned* the outer layer of wooden shingles *away*.

burn down [*phrasal verb*] **1** ***burn down*** *or* ***burn (something) down*** *or* ***burn down (something)*** *of a building or other structure* : to be destroyed or to destroy (something) by fire ▪ The hotel *burned down* [=*burned to the ground*] in 1922. = A fire in 1922 *burned down* the hotel. **2** ***burn down*** *of a fire* : to become smaller : to gradually produce less and less flame ▪ We watched the fire as it slowly *burned down*.

burn off [*phrasal verb*] ***burn off*** *or* ***burn (something) off*** *or* ***burn off (something)*** **1** *US, of fog, smoke, etc.* : to go away because of the sun's heat ▪ We waited for the fog to *burn off*. = We waited for the sun to *burn off* the fog. **2** : to be removed or to remove (something) by fire or heat ▪ The hot sun had *burned* the paint *off* the sign years before. — see also ¹BURN 10c (above)

burn out [*phrasal verb*] **1** ***burn out*** *or* ***burn (itself) out*** *of a fire* : to stop burning ▪ The campfire eventually *burned out*. = The campfire eventually *burned itself out*. — sometimes used figuratively ▪ His anger finally *burned itself out*. [=he finally stopped being angry] **2** ***burn (a building) out*** *or* ***burn out (a building)*** : to destroy the inside of (a building) by fire ▪ The apartment building was completely *burned out* by the fire. — see also BURNED OUT 1 **3** ***burn out*** *or* ***burn (something) out*** *or* ***burn out (something)*** : to stop working or cause (something) to stop working because of too much use or careless use ▪ The engine *burned out*. ▪ If you keep running the engine like that you're going to *burn it out*. **4** ***burn out*** *or* ***burn (someone) out*** *also* ***burn out (someone)*** : to become or cause (someone) to become very physically and emotionally tired after doing a difficult job for a long time : to suffer burnout or cause (someone) to suffer burnout ▪ Teaching can be very stressful, and many teachers eventually *burn out*. = Teaching can be very stressful, and many teachers eventually *burn themselves out*. ▪ All that hard work *burned her out* eventually. — see also BURNED OUT 2

burn rubber see ¹RUBBER

burn the candle at both ends : to do too much by being active late at night and during the day ▪ She's going to wear herself out if she keeps *burning the candle at both ends*.

burn the midnight oil : to work or study until very late at night ▪ The students have been *burning the midnight oil* as they prepare for their final exams.

burn through [*phrasal verb*] ***burn through (something)*** *informal* : to use all of (something) quickly ▪ They've *burned through* 2 million dollars already, and the renovations are far from complete.

burn up [*phrasal verb*] ***burn up*** *or* ***burn (something) up*** *or* ***burn up (something)*** : to be destroyed or cause (something) to be destroyed by fire ▪ Most asteroids *burn up* upon entering the Earth's atmosphere. ▪ Wildfires have been raging across the region *burning up* acres of forest. — see also ¹BURN 7c, 9b, 10b, c (above)

burn your bridges *also Brit* ***burn your boats*** : to do something that makes you unable to go back to a previous situation ▪ Even after leaving his job, he tried to stay on friendly terms with his former boss because he didn't want to *burn his bridges*.

crash and burn see ¹CRASH

money to burn see MONEY

– burn•able /ˈbərnəbəl/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] ▪ an easily *burnable* material

²burn *noun, pl* **burns**

1 [*count*] **a** : an injury caused by fire, heat, acid, etc. ▪ He suffered severe/serious *burns* on both his legs in the accident. ▪ a second-degree *burn* **b** : a burned area : a mark on the surface of something caused by a flame or fire ▪ There's a small *burn* on the tabletop. ▪ a *burn* mark

2 [*count*] : a painful red mark on the skin caused by rubbing against something ▪ rope/friction *burns*

3 [*singular*] : a sharp, hot pain : a burning feeling ▪ the *burn* of iodine on a cut ▪ Continue doing the exercise until you feel the *burn* in your muscles.

do a slow burn *US, informal* : to slowly become very angry ▪ The boss *did a slow burn* when he saw the expense report.

burned out *or* **burnt out** *adj*

1 *of a building* : having the inside destroyed by fire — usually hyphenated ▪ an empty, *burned-out* building — see also *burn out* 2 at ¹BURN

2 [*more ~; most ~*] : suffering burnout : feeling very physically and emotionally tired after doing a difficult job for a long time ▪ I was *burned out* after 25 years as a corporate lawyer. — usually hyphenated when used before a noun ▪ a *burned-out* novelist — see also *burn out* 4 at ¹BURN

burn•er /ˈbərnɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]

1 a : the part of a furnace, stove, etc., where the flame or

heat is produced ▪ (*chiefly US*) The stove has four *burners*. [=(*Brit*) *rings*] ▪ The *burner* on the furnace isn't working. — see picture at KITCHEN **b** : a device that burns something ▪ a propane/gas/oil *burner* : a device in which something is burned ▪ an incense *burner* — see also BACK BURNER, BARN BURNER, BUNSEN BURNER, FRONT BURNER

2 *computers* : a device that is used to record information or music on a CD or DVD ▪ The computer comes equipped with a CD *burner*.

burn•ing /ˈbɚnɪŋ/ *adj, always used before a noun*

1 : on fire : producing or having a flame ▪ a *burning* fire/candle/city ▪ She stared at the *burning* embers for a long time.

2 : very strong ▪ a *burning* hatred of corruption ▪ his *burning* [=*intense*] desire to succeed

3 a : very hot ▪ *burning* sand/pavement ▪ He has a *burning* fever. [=he has a very high fever] **b** : similar to the feeling caused by something hot ▪ The medicine produced a *burning* sensation on my tongue. ▪ Symptoms include itchy, *burning* eyes.

4 : very important ▪ This is one of the *burning* issues/questions of our time.

– **burning** *adv* ▪ The pavement was ***burning hot***. [=extremely hot] – **burning** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ a sensation of *burning* on my tongue ▪ Who ordered the *burning* of the city?

– **burn•ing•ly** *adv* ▪ *burningly* hot/intense

bur•nish /ˈbɚnɪʃ/ *verb* **-nish•es**; **-nished**; **-nish•ing** [+ *obj*] *formal* : to make (something, such as metal or leather) smooth and shiny by rubbing it : POLISH — often used figuratively ▪ She started a publicity campaign to help *burnish* [=*improve*] her image/reputation.

– **burnished** *adj* ▪ *burnished* gold/leather

burn•out /ˈbɚnˌaʊt/ *noun, pl* **-outs**

1 a [*noncount*] : the condition of someone who has become very physically and emotionally tired after doing a difficult job for a long time ▪ Teaching can be very stressful, and many teachers eventually suffer/experience *burnout*. ▪ the *burnout* rate among teachers **b** [*count*] : a person who suffers burnout ▪ a novel about academic *burnouts* — see also BURNED OUT, *burn out* 4 at ¹BURN

2 [*noncount*] : the time when a jet or rocket engine stops working because there is no more fuel available

burnt *past tense and past participle of* ¹BURN

burnt out *variant spelling of* BURNED OUT

burp *verb* **burps**; **burped**; **burp•ing**

1 [*no obj*] : to let out air from the stomach through the mouth with a sound ▪ Say "excuse me" when you *burp*. — compare BELCH

2 [+ *obj*] : to help (a baby) let out air from the stomach especially by patting or rubbing the baby's back

– **burp** /ˈbɚp/ *noun, pl* **burps** [*count*] ▪ He let out a *burp*. ▪ a loud *burp* [=*belch*]

burqa *variant spelling of* BURKA

burr /ˈbɚ/ *noun, pl* **burrs** [*count*]

1 *also* ***bur*** : a rough covering of a nut or seed ✧ Burrs often have small hooks that stick to clothing and fur.

2 : a rough area on a piece of metal that is left after the metal is cut ▪ a tool that can cut through steel leaving a smooth edge and no *burrs*

3 : a strong way of pronouncing *r* that is used by some speakers of English especially in northern England and in Scotland — usually singular ▪ He speaks with a Scottish *burr*.

a burr in/under the saddle *US, informal* : someone or something that is a constant cause of trouble or annoyance ▪ He was *a burr in the saddle* of the competition. ▪ She's been *a burr under their saddle* for many years.

bur•ri•to /bəˈriːˌtoʊ/ *noun, pl* **-tos** [*count*] : a Mexican food that consists of a flour tortilla that is rolled or folded around a filling (such as meat, beans, and cheese)

bur•ro /ˈbɚroʊ/ *noun, pl* **-ros** [*count*] *chiefly US* : a small donkey

¹bur•row /ˈbɚroʊ/ *noun, pl* **-rows** [*count*] : a hole or tunnel in the ground that an animal (such as a rabbit or fox) makes to live in or for safety

²burrow *verb* **-rows**; **-rowed**; **-row•ing**

1 : to make a hole or tunnel in the ground by digging — usually + *into* or *under* [*no obj*] The rabbit *burrowed into* the side of the hill. ▪ The frogs *burrow under* the mud. [+ *obj*] The mole *burrowed* its way *under* the ground.

2 *always followed by an adverb or preposition* : to move or press under, through, or into something [*no obj*] She *burrowed* [=*snuggled*] *deep* under the blankets. ▪ I *burrowed* [=(more commonly) *dug*] through my purse looking for change. [+ *obj*] The baby *burrowed* [=*nestled*] her head into/against her mother's chest.

– **burrowing** *adj* ▪ *burrowing* animals/rodents [=animals/rodents that make holes or tunnels]

bur•sar /ˈbɚsɚ/ *noun, pl* **-sars** [*count*] : a person whose job is to manage the money of a school, college, or university : TREASURER

bur•sa•ry /ˈbɚsəri/ *noun, pl* **-ries** [*count*] *Brit* : an amount of money that a student is given to help pay for college or university study : a scholarship or grant

¹burst /ˈbɚst/ *verb* **bursts**; **burst** *also* **burst•ed**; **burst•ing**

1 a [*no obj*] : to break open or into pieces in a sudden and violent way ▪ The balloon *burst*. [=*popped*] ▪ We could hear bombs *bursting* [=*exploding*] in the distance. ▪ Two of the water pipes *burst*. **b** [+ *obj*] : to cause (something) to break open or into pieces ▪ Be careful not to *burst* [=*pop*] the balloon. ▪ He *burst* a blood vessel.

2 : to open suddenly [*no obj*] The doors suddenly ***burst open***. [+ *obj*] The cops *burst* the door *open*.

3 *always followed by an adverb or preposition* [*no obj*] : to come or go very quickly and suddenly ▪ He *burst* into the room. ▪ The sun *burst* through the clouds. ▪ She *burst* through the door and yelled "Surprise!" ▪ They just ***burst in on*** us [=they suddenly entered the room we were in] without even knocking on the door. ✧ To ***burst onto/on/upon the scene*** is to suddenly become very well known. ▪ They *burst onto the* music *scene* in 1995 with a very successful debut album. ▪ when the technology first *burst on the scene*

4 [+ *obj*] *of a river, stream, etc.* : to flow over the surrounding land because of a flood ▪ The stream ***burst its banks***.

be bursting **1** : to be filled *with* something ▪ The crate *was bursting with* fruit. ▪ The dish *is bursting with* flavors. ▪ The kids *are* just *bursting with* energy/excitement. ▪ Her parents *were* practically *bursting with* pride. **2** : to want very much *to do* (something you are not yet able to do) ▪ I'm *bursting to tell you* the news, but I have to talk to Ken first. **3** *Brit, informal* : to need to urinate very badly

be bursting at the seams : to be very full or crowded ▪ The nightclub *was bursting at the seams*. ▪ The garden *is bursting at the seams* with colorful flowers.

burst into [*phrasal verb*] ***burst into (something)*** : to begin to produce or do (something) suddenly ▪ She *burst into* [=*broke into*] laughter/tears. ▪ The house *burst into* flame(s). ▪ The entire cast *burst into* [=*broke into*] song. ▪ The audience *burst into* applause. ▪ The flowers were *bursting into* bloom.

burst out [*phrasal verb*] **1** ***burst out (doing something)*** : to begin (doing something) suddenly ▪ They both *burst out* [=*busted out*] laughing. **2** ***burst out (something)*** : to say (something) suddenly ▪ Everyone *burst out* "Surprise!" as he walked through the door.

burst someone's bubble see ¹BUBBLE

fit to burst see ¹FIT

²burst *noun, pl* **bursts** [*count*]

1 : a short period of producing or doing something that begins suddenly ▪ She ran hard in short *bursts* toward the end of the race. — often + *of* ▪ a (sudden) *burst of* speed/laughter/energy ▪ *Bursts of* machine-gun fire could be heard in the distance.

2 : an act of breaking open or into pieces ▪ the *burst* of a bubble : the result of something breaking open or into pieces ▪ The plumber fixed the *burst* [=(more commonly) *break*] in the water pipe.

bur•ton /ˈbɚtn̩/ *noun*

go for a burton *Brit, informal + old-fashioned* : to be lost, broken, or ruined ▪ Our holiday plans have *gone for a burton*.

bury /ˈberi/ *verb* **bur•ies**; **bur•ied**; **bury•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 a : to put (a dead person or animal) in a grave ▪ He was *buried* with full military honors. ▪ Their ancestors are *buried* in the local cemetery. ▪ cultures that *bury* their dead **b** : to have someone that you love or are related to die ▪ He had three children by two wives and *buried* [=*outlived*] them all.

2 a : to hide (something) in the ground ▪ The dog *buried* her bone. ▪ He *buried* the money in the backyard. ▪ the search for *buried* treasure **b** : to hide (something) so that it cannot be seen or is difficult to see ▪ He has learned to *bury* his feelings. ▪ She *buried* her face in her hands. ▪ The disclaimer was *buried* in the fine print. ▪ The newspaper covered the story, but it was *buried* in the back of section C.

3 : to cover (someone or something) with something ▪ A blanket of snow had *buried* the first few flowers of spring. —

usually used as *(be) buried* ▪ Three skiers were ***buried alive*** in a massive avalanche on Tuesday. — usually + *under* or *beneath* ▪ The car *was buried under* the snow. ▪ My shoes *were buried beneath* a pile of clothes.

4 : to push (something) *in* or *into* something ▪ He *buried* his face/head *in* the pillow. ▪ The splinter *buried* itself *in* my thumb. ✧ When you ***bury yourself in something***, you give it all of your attention and ignore everything else. ▪ He *buried himself in* his studies.

5 : to stop being angry or upset about (something) ▪ We've decided to *bury* our differences and start working together.

6 *sports, informal* : to make (a shot) in a very impressive way ▪ He *buried* the jumper. [=he made the jump shot] ▪ She *buried* [=*holed*] the putt.

7 *informal* : to defeat (a competitor) easily or completely ▪ They *buried* the other team (by a score of) 15–2.

bury the hatchet see HATCHET

dead and buried see [1]DEAD

[1]bus /ˈbʌs/ *noun, pl* **bus•es** *also US* **bus•ses** : a large vehicle that is used for carrying passengers especially along a particular route at particular times [*count*] She boarded a *bus* in Nashville. [*noncount*] I usually go to work ***by bus*** = I usually ***take the bus*** to work. ▪ Are you traveling by train or *by bus*? — often used before another noun ▪ a *bus* driver ▪ a *bus* station ▪ waiting at the ***bus stop*** [=one of the places where a bus stops for passengers to get on or off] — see also SCHOOL BUS

[2]bus *verb* **buses** *also US* **busses**; **bused** *also US* **bussed**; **bus•ing** *also US* **bus•sing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to transport (someone) in a bus — often used as *(be) bused* ▪ Students from the other college *were bused* in for the game. ▪ The children *are bused* to school.

2 *US* **a** : to remove dirty dishes from (a table at a restaurant) ▪ He *buses* tables at the local diner. **b** : to remove (something, such as dirty dishes) ▪ We're supposed to *bus* [=*clear*] our own trays.

bus•boy /ˈbʌsˌbɔɪ/ *noun, pl* **-boys** [*count*] : a man or boy whose job is to remove dirty dishes, clean tables, etc., at a restaurant

bus•by /ˈbʌzbi/ *noun, pl* **-bies** [*count*] : a tall fur hat that is worn by some British soldiers

bush /ˈbʊʃ/ *noun, pl* **bush•es**

1 [*count*] : a plant that has stems of wood and is smaller than a tree ▪ a rose/mulberry *bush* ▪ The *bushes* [=*shrubs*] in my yard need to be trimmed.

2 [*count*] : a thick growth of hair or fur ▪ a *bush* of hair

3 ***the bush*** : a large area (such as in Australia or Africa) that has not been cleared and that is not used for farming ▪ She recently spent several weeks in *the bush*.

a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush see BIRD

beat around the bush *or Brit* ***beat about the bush*** : to avoid saying something by talking about other things ▪ Stop *beating around the bush* and tell me why you're here.

bushed /ˈbʊʃt/ *adj, not used before a noun* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *informal* : very tired ▪ That hike wore me out. I'm *bushed*. [=*beat, exhausted*]

bush•el /ˈbʊʃəl/ *noun, pl* **-els**

1 [*count*] : a unit for measuring an amount of fruit and grain that is equal to about 35.2 liters in the U.S. and to about 36.4 liters in the U.K. ▪ a *bushel* of wheat/apples

2 ***bushels*** [*plural*] *US, informal* : a large amount *of* something ▪ The company made *bushels* [=*lots*] *of* money last year.

hide your light under a bushel : to not tell others about your talents, successes, ideas, etc.

bush league *noun, pl* ~ **leagues** [*count*] *informal* : MINOR LEAGUE

– **bush leaguer** *noun, pl* ~ **-uers** [*count*]

bush–league /ˈbʊʃˌliːg/ *adj, US, informal* : of very low quality ▪ *bush-league* customer service ▪ a *bush-league* [=*unprofessional*] reporter

Bush•man /ˈbʊʃmən/ *noun, pl* **-men** /-mən/ [*count*] : a member of a group of people of southern Africa who live and hunt in a wild area (called the bush)

bush pilot *noun, pl* ~ **-lots** [*count*] *chiefly US* : a pilot who flies a small airplane into areas that are hard to reach

bush•whack /ˈbʊʃˌwæk/ *verb* **-whacks**; **-whacked**; **-whack•ing**

1 [*no obj*] : to clear a path through thick woods by cutting down bushes and low tree branches ▪ The group *bushwhacked* through the jungle.

2 [+ *obj*] : to attack (someone) suddenly ▪ He was *bushwhacked* [=*ambushed*] by enemy soldiers. ▪ They used the controversy as an opportunity to *bushwhack* their political opponents.

bushy /ˈbʊʃi/ *adj* **bush•i•er**; **-est** [*also more* ~; *most* ~]

1 : very thick and full ▪ a *bushy* beard ▪ *bushy* hair/eyebrows ▪ an animal with a *bushy* tail

2 *of a plant* : having a lot of branches and leaves ▪ a *bushy* tree

bright-eyed and bushy-tailed see BRIGHT

– **bush•i•ness** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ the *bushiness* of his eyebrows

busi•ly /ˈbɪzəli/ *adv* : in a busy way ▪ He was *busily* engaged in his work. ▪ They are *busily* planning next year's event.

busi•ness /ˈbɪznəs/ *noun, pl* **-ness•es**

1 [*noncount*] **a** : the activity of making, buying, or selling goods or providing services in exchange for money ▪ The store will be open for *business* next week. [=the store will be ready for customers next week] ▪ The store has lost a significant amount of *business* since the factory closed. ▪ Allowing customers to leave your store unsatisfied is bad (for) *business*. ▪ The new Web site has been good for (attracting) *business*. ▪ What line of *business* [=*work*] are you in? ▪ She works in the publishing *business*. ▪ the fashion/music/restaurant *business* ▪ We ***do business with*** [=sell to or buy from] companies overseas. ▪ David has decided to ***go into business*** with his brother. ▪ Remember that your customers can ***take their business elsewhere*** [=your customers can go to another place to do business] ▪ Their publishing company is ***the best in the business*** ▪ a ***place of business*** [=a place, such as a store, bank, etc., where business is done] — often used before another noun ▪ *business* opportunities/contacts/interests ▪ The *business* world is responding to changes in technology. [=businesses are responding to changes in technology] ▪ Someone will be available to answer your call during regular ***business hours*** [=the hours that the office is open to do business] ▪ a ***business meeting*** [=a meeting at which matters of business are discussed] — see also AGRIBUSINESS, BIG BUSINESS, IN BUSINESS (below), OUT OF BUSINESS (below), SHOW BUSINESS **b** : work that is part of a job ▪ Is your trip to Miami (for) *business* or pleasure? ▪ I have to go to New York City on/for *business* next week. — sometimes used before another noun ▪ a ***business trip*** [=a trip that is made in order to do business] ▪ I am flying ***business class*** [=in a seating section of an airplane that is more expensive than the main section but less expensive than first class] from Tokyo to New York. **c** : the amount of activity that is done by a store, company, factory, etc. ▪ *Business* has been slow/bad lately. [=there have been few customers, sales, etc., lately] ▪ *Business* was good/booming. ▪ They advertised to increase *business*. ▪ How is *business*?

2 [*count*] : an organization (such as a store, company, or factory) that makes, buys, or sells goods or provides services in exchange for money ▪ He has the skills necessary to run/operate/start a *business*. ▪ The town is trying to attract new *businesses*. ▪ local *businesses* ▪ She joined the ***family business*** [=the business owned or operated by her family] after graduating from college. — sometimes used before another noun ▪ I had lunch with some *business* associates. ▪ In addition to being married, the two are also *business* partners. ▪ The restaurant is in the ***business district*** [=the part of a city or town where there are many businesses] ▪ the ***business community*** [=people involved in the upper levels of businesses]

3 [*singular*] : something that concerns a particular person, group, etc. : something that needs to be considered or dealt with ▪ Do we have any other *business* we need to discuss? ▪ Air quality is a serious *business*. [=air quality is something people should think about seriously] ▪ What's this *business* [=*news*] I hear about you moving away? ▪ Educating students is the *business* [=*responsibility*] of schools. ▪ No, I didn't ask him what he wanted the car for. That's his *business*. ▪ I won't answer that question. Who I choose to vote for is my *business*. ▪ He's decided to ***make it his business*** [=make it his goal] to bring more affordable housing to the city. ▪ "Who did you vote for?" "That's ***none of your business***" [=that's private information that you should not be asking about] ▪ It's ***no business of yours*** who I voted for. ✧ The phrase ***mind your own business*** is used as an informal and often somewhat impolite way to tell someone to stop watching or asking about something that is private. ▪ *Mind your own business* and let them talk alone. ✧ To say that you were ***minding your own business*** when something happened means that you were doing what you normally do and were not bothering anyone. ▪ I was walking down the street, *minding my own business*, when all of a sudden some man started yelling at

me. ✧ If you say something is ***nobody's business***, you mean that it is private and other people do not need to know about it. ▪ It's *nobody's business* what we were talking about. ✧ Someone who ***has no business doing something*** has no right to do it. ▪ You *have no business telling me* what I can and cannot wear! I'll wear whatever I like!

4 [*noncount*] : something that must be done ▪ I have some *business* in town Friday afternoon. [=I have to do something in town Friday afternoon] ▪ He had to leave the meeting early because he had to attend to some ***unfinished business***. [=something not done that needs to be done] ▪ Now that we've all introduced ourselves, let's ***get down to business***. [=start doing what needs to be done, start working] ▪ I was just ***going about my business*** [=doing what I usually do], when I heard a big crash. ▪ Sarah is good at ***taking care of business*** [=doing what needs to be done], so she's been put in charge of organizing the event. ▪ The church has hired someone to take care of the bills and ***all that business***. [=everything else that needs to be done] ▪ A public library is ***in the business of*** providing information to the public. [=the job/purpose of a public library is to provide information] ▪ I'm not *in the business of* lending money to people I hardly know. [=I don't lend money to people I hardly know]

5 [*singular*] : a matter, event, or situation — usually used after an adjective ▪ Divorce can be such a messy *business*. [=*affair*] ▪ The earthquake was a terrible *business*. ▪ Predicting how people will react to something is a tricky *business*. ▪ Investing all your money in one stock is (a) very risky *business*. ▪ "How long did the ceremony take?" "Oh, the whole *business* was over in less than an hour." ▪ Let's just forget about that *business* of me being unhappy with my job. — see also MONKEY BUSINESS

business as usual — used to say that something is working or continuing in the normal or usual way ▪ Much of the town lost electricity in the storm, but for people with generators it was *business as usual*. ▪ As the election nears, both political parties continue to blame each other for all the city's problems. In other words, it's *business as usual*.

business is business — used to say that in order for a business to be successful it is necessary to do things that may hurt or upset people ▪ I'm sorry I have to let you go, but understand that *business is business*.

in business **1** : operating as a business ▪ The hotel has been *in business* for over 150 years. ▪ Customer satisfaction is important if you want to stay *in business*. **2** *informal* : ready to begin doing or using something ▪ Just plug in the computer and you're *in business*! [=you will be able to use the computer] ▪ All the musicians have finally arrived, so we're *in business*! ▪ He quickly changed the tire, and was ***back in business*** [=ready to drive again] in 10 minutes.

like nobody's business *informal* : very well or quickly or in very large amounts ▪ She can design computer programs *like nobody's business*. ▪ It's been raining *like nobody's business*.

mean business : to be serious about doing something ▪ We thought he was joking at first, but then we saw that he really *meant business*.

out of business : closed down : no longer in business ▪ My favorite flower shop is *out of business*. ▪ Small grocery stores are being driven/forced/put *out of business* by large stores. [=small grocery stores cannot compete with large stores and so are closing permanently] ▪ The store has ***gone out of business***. [=has closed]

the business *Brit slang* : a very good or impressive person or thing ▪ Since he's won the tournament, he thinks he's *the business*. [=*the best*] ▪ You should see their new flat. It's *the business*.

business administration *noun* [*noncount*] : a program of studies in a college or university that teaches students how to run a business ▪ a degree in *business administration*

business card *noun, pl* ~ **cards** [*count*] : a small card printed with a person's name and information about that person's company and job ✧ People give business cards to anyone who they think might want to contact them about their business.

business end *noun*

the business end *informal* : the part of a tool, weapon, or instrument that is used most directly for the object's purpose ▪ the *business end* of a rifle [=the end where the bullets come out]

busi•ness•like /ˈbɪznəsˌlaɪk/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] : having or showing qualities that are considered good in business : serious, polite, and practical ▪ His *businesslike* approach to the dispute was very helpful. ▪ a *businesslike* manner

busi•ness•man /ˈbɪznəsˌmæn/ *noun, pl* **-men** /-ˌmɛn/ [*count*]

1 : a man who works in business especially in a high position **2** : a man who is good at dealing with business and financial matters ▪ I know it's hard for him to sell his paintings. He's always been a better artist than *businessman*.

busi•ness•per•son /ˈbɪznəsˌpəsn̩/ *noun, pl* **busi•ness•peo•ple** /ˈbɪznəsˌpi:pəl/ [*count*] : a man or woman who works in business

business suit *noun, pl* ~ **suits** [*count*] *US* : a type of suit that is worn by some people who work in offices and that includes a matching coat and pants or skirt

busi•ness•wom•an /ˈbɪznəsˌwʊmən/ *noun, pl* **-wom•en** /-ˌwɪmən/ [*count*]

1 : a woman who works in business especially in a high position **2** : a woman who is good at dealing with business and financial matters ▪ Like many musicians, she's found that she has to be a *businesswoman* as well as a performer.

bus•ing /ˈbʌsɪŋ/ *noun* [*noncount*] *US* : the act or practice of bringing children by buses to a school that is far from the area where they live so that the school will have many children of different races

busk /ˈbʌsk/ *verb* **busks**; **busked**; **busk•ing** [*no obj*] *chiefly Brit, informal* : to play music in a public place in order to earn money from people who are passing by
– **busk•er** /ˈbʌskɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]

bus•load /ˈbʌsˌloʊd/ *noun, pl* **-loads** [*count*] *chiefly US* : a large group of people that fills a bus ▪ a *busload* of tourists ▪ People came to the park by the *busload*. [=many busloads of people came to the park]

bus•man's holiday /ˈbʌsmənz-/ *noun* [*singular*] : a holiday that you spend doing the same kind of thing that you usually do for your job

[1]bust /ˈbʌst/ *noun, pl* **busts** [*count*]

1 : a sculpture of a person's head and neck and usually a part of the shoulders and chest ▪ a marble/bronze *bust* ▪ a *bust* of Albert Einstein **2 a** : a woman's breasts ▪ The neckline of the dress is meant to accentuate the *bust*. **b** : a measurement taken around a woman's chest and back ▪ *bust* size
– compare [3]BUST

[2]bust *verb* **busts**; **bust•ed** *also Brit* **bust**; **bust•ing** [+ *obj*] *informal*

1 : to break (something): such as **a** : to cause (something) to stop working by damaging it ▪ He *busted* his watch when he fell. ▪ I think the camera is *busted*. **b** : to cause (something) to separate into parts or pieces ▪ *bust* a window **2 a** : to arrest (someone) ▪ Police *busted* 12 gang members on weapons charges. ▪ She got/was *busted* for drug possession. **b** : to catch (someone) doing something wrong ▪ Two students got *busted* by the teacher for smoking in the bathroom. **3** *US, impolite* — used in phrases like ***bust your butt/ass*** to describe working very hard ▪ She's been *busting her butt* to finish the project on time. **4** *US* : to hit or punch (someone) ▪ I felt like *busting* him in the nose.

bust a/your gut see [1]GUT

bust out [*phrasal verb*] *informal* **1 *bust out (doing something)*** : to begin (doing something) suddenly : to burst out (doing something) ▪ She just *busted out* laughing. **2 *bust out (something) or bust (something) out*** : to take (something) from the place where it is stored so that it can be used ▪ He *busted out* [=*broke out*] the champagne. **3** : to escape from a prison, jail, etc. ▪ Two prisoners *busted out* of jail.

bust up [*phrasal verb*] *informal* **1** : to end your relationship with someone ▪ Their marriage *busted up* after three years. ▪ Didn't you hear? They *busted up*. [=(more commonly) *broke up, separated*] **2 *bust up (something) or bust (something) up*** : to cause (something) to end ▪ His gambling problem *busted up* their marriage. ▪ Police hope to *bust up* the crime ring for good. ▪ The police *busted* the party *up*.

or bust *informal* — used to say that you will do everything possible to get somewhere ▪ The sign on the car said "New Orleans *or bust*!"

[3]bust *noun, pl* **busts** [*count*] *informal*

1 *US* : a complete failure : FLOP — usually singular ▪ The new product was a *bust*. ▪ Although critically acclaimed, the play has been a *bust*.

2 : an occurrence in which the police catch and arrest people committing a crime ▪ a big drug *bust*
– compare [1]BUST

[4]**bust** *adj*
go bust *informal* : to spend or lose all of your money : to go broke ▪ The company has *gone bust*.

bust•er /'bʌstɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers**
1 [*count*] **a** : a person or thing that stops or prevents something — usually used in combination ▪ crime-*busters* [=people who stop crimes, who catch criminals, etc.] **b** : a person or thing that breaks something apart — usually used in combination ▪ The new drug acts as a clot-*buster*. [=it causes blood clots to break apart]
2 *US, informal + somewhat old-fashioned* — used to address a man who is behaving in a way you do not like ▪ Wait a minute, *buster*. You're trying to trick me, aren't you?

bus•tier /ˌbu:sti'eɪ, *Brit* 'bʌstiˌeɪ/ *noun, pl* **-tiers** [*count*] : a tight piece of clothing that covers the upper part of a woman's body and that is worn by itself or under other clothes

[1]**bus•tle** /'bʌsəl/ *verb* **bus•tles**; **bus•tled**; **bus•tling** [*no obj*]
1 : to move or go in a busy or hurried way ▪ She *bustled* around the kitchen getting ready for dinner guests.
2 : to have a lot of busy activity — often + *with* ▪ The pier is always *bustling with* people.
– **bustling** *adj* ▪ a *bustling* town/pier

[2]**bustle** *noun* [*noncount*] : noisy or busy activity ▪ The countryside seems very quiet after the ***hustle and bustle*** of the city. — compare [3]BUSTLE

[3]**bustle** *noun, pl* **bustles** [*count*] : a frame or pad worn in the past under a skirt or dress to hold it out from the body in the back — compare [2]BUSTLE

bust–up /'bʌstˌʌp/ *noun, pl* **-ups** [*count*] *informal*
1 : the end of a relationship, marriage, etc. : BREAKUP ▪ the *bust-up* of their marriage
2 *Brit* : a very bad argument or disagreement : a quarrel or fight ▪ They had a *bust-up* over money.

busty /'bʌsti/ *adj* **bust•i•er**; **-est** [*also more ~; most ~*] *informal, of a woman* : having large breasts ▪ a *busty* blonde

[1]**busy** /'bɪzi/ *adj* **bus•i•er**; **-est** [*also more ~; most ~*]
1 : actively doing something ▪ She's *busy* preparing for her test. ▪ Are you *busy*? Can I talk to you for a minute? ▪ I will be *busy* cleaning the house. ▪ I'm sorry I haven't called. I've been so *busy*. ▪ *busy* people who don't have time to cook ▪ I got enough work to keep me *busy* for a while. ▪ He is a very *busy* person. ▪ He's been *busy* in the kitchen all afternoon. ▪ She's ***as busy as a bee*** [=she's very busy] — often + *with* ▪ The actress is *busy with* a new film. [=is working on a new film] ▪ He keeps himself *busy with* volunteer work. ▪ She is *busy with* wedding plans.
2 a : full of activity or work ▪ My week has been so *busy*! ▪ They live/lead *busy* lives. ▪ Is there any time in your *busy* schedule for us to have lunch next week? **b** : full of people or things ▪ a *busy* street ▪ a *busy* store
3 *chiefly US, of a telephone or telephone line* : being used ▪ I tried calling her, but her line/phone is *busy*. [=(*chiefly Brit*) *engaged*] ✧ When you dial a telephone line that is already in use, you hear a sound that is called a ***busy signal***.
4 : full of many details ▪ I like the fabric, but I think the pattern is too *busy* for this dress. ▪ *busy* wallpaper
get busy : to start doing work ▪ We need to finish by 5 o'clock, so we'd better *get busy*.
– **busi•ly** /'bɪzəli/ *adv* ▪ She is *busily* preparing for her test. ▪ He is working *busily* in the kitchen. – **busy•ness** /'bɪzinəs/ *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ I don't like the *busyness* of stores around the holidays. ▪ the *busyness* of the pattern

[2]**busy** *verb* **bus•ies**; **bus•ied**; **busy•ing**
busy yourself : to make or keep yourself busy : to occupy (yourself) with work or an activity ▪ The children *busied themselves* with puzzles all day. ▪ He *busied himself* in the workshop building things.

busy•body /'bɪziˌbɑ:di/ *noun, pl* **-bod•ies** [*count*] *disapproving* : a person who is too interested in the private lives of other people ▪ The neighborhood *busybody* is telling everyone that the couple up the street is getting divorced.

busy•work /'bɪziˌwɚk/ *noun* [*noncount*] *US* : work that is given to you only to keep you busy ▪ Students were given *busywork* for the last few minutes of class.

[1]**but** /'bʌt, bət/ *conj*
1 — used to introduce a statement that adds something to a previous statement and usually contrasts with it in some way ▪ I don't know her, *but* my husband does. ▪ He wants to go to the movies, *but* I want to go to the museum. ▪ He plans to visit Boston and Chicago, *but* not New York. ▪ The book is not a biography at all *but* (instead is) a fictional account. ▪ It's not the music I don't like *but* (rather) the band themselves. ▪ She got the promotion not by luck *but* by hard work. ▪ The fighting has been going on for years. *But* to really understand the current situation, you have to look at the history of the region. ▪ She called his name, *but* he did not answer. ▪ He fell *but* (he) wasn't hurt/injured. ▪ I told him to stay, *but* he refused to. ▪ It might have been raining, *but* it was still a nice wedding. ▪ I'd love to come to the party, *but* [=*however*] I'll be away that weekend. ▪ I'm sorry, *but* I won't be able to help you. ▪ The dress is quite plain *but* (it's) pretty. ▪ They were polite, *but* not really friendly. ▪ Not only was it quite cold on our trip, *but* it rained the whole time too. ▪ I can't do it—*but* neither can you.
2 : other than : EXCEPT ▪ We had no choice *but* to leave. ▪ They've done nothing *but* argue all afternoon.
3 — used in speech at the beginning of a sentence that expresses surprise, shock, etc. ▪ *But* you promised (that) you would help me with this. ▪ *But* it's not fair for them to treat him this way! ▪ They've arrived? *But* I thought they were coming Tuesday.
4 — used with a repeated word for emphasis ▪ Nobody *but* nobody could solve the riddle.
but then **1** — used to introduce a statement that adds another and different thought to a preceding statement ▪ I'm surprised to hear that Tom has left the army. *But then* I suppose he never was the type to obey orders. ▪ I'm sure she would do a wonderful job on the project, *but then* I know she's very busy. — sometimes used to introduce an explanation for something ▪ His cakes are amazing—*but then* he did study with some of the best pastry chefs in the world. **2** — used to introduce a statement that tells about something different or surprising that happened next ▪ The team won the first two games, *but then* failed to win any of the next five. ▪ The disease was said to be untreatable, *but then* a new medication was introduced.

[2]**but** *prep* : other than (something or someone) : EXCEPT ▪ We had nothing *but* rain all week. [=it rained for the entire week] ▪ There was no one there *but* him. ▪ I didn't tell anyone *but* my sister. ▪ Who *but* you would think that? ▪ No one *but* you would try that. = No one would try that *but* you. ▪ I was anything *but* tired. [=I was not at all tired]
but for : if not for (something or someone) : without (something or someone) ▪ We would never have visited the town *but for* [=*except for*] the newspaper article about local artists. ▪ The score would have been higher *but for* some excellent goaltending.

[3]**but** *adv, formal*
1 : [2]ONLY ▪ They have *but* two weeks to get ready. — sometimes used for emphasis ▪ If they had *but* given me a chance, I know I could have done it. ▪ He was here *but* five minutes ago. ▪ She is still *but* a child. ▪ This new product offers many advantages: speed, convenience, and durability, ***to name but a few***.
2 — used in negative statements to say that something must happen ▪ Anyone who reads the book ***cannot but*** feel sympathy for him. [=must feel sympathy for him] ▪ I ***could not (help) but*** wonder [=I felt compelled to wonder, I could not help wondering] why she had lied. — see also ALL BUT

[4]**but** /'bʌt/ *noun, pl* **buts** [*count*] : a reason someone gives for not doing or agreeing with something — usually plural ▪ I want this done today, and I don't want to hear any *buts* about it. ▪ (*US*) As far as I'm concerned, she's the most qualified candidate, and there are ***no ifs, ands, or buts*** about it! = (*Brit*) There are ***no ifs and buts*** about it! [=it is certain that she is the most qualified candidate]

bu•tane /'bju:ˌteɪn/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a type of gas that is used in a liquid form as a fuel usually for cooking or heating

butch /'bʊʧ/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] *informal*
1 *sometimes offensive* : having a very masculine appearance and way of behaving — used especially to describe homosexual women and men
2 *of hair* : cut very short ▪ a *butch* haircut

[1]**butch•er** /'bʊʧɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]
1 a : someone who cuts and sells meat in a shop **b** : someone who kills animals and prepares their meat to be eaten
2 : a shop that sells meat ▪ The town was small but had a grocery store and a *butcher* (store/shop).
3 : someone who kills a lot of people or animals in a brutal or cruel way ▪ They are a bunch of *butchers* [=*murderers*] who gained power by slaughtering their enemies.

4 *informal* : someone who does something very roughly and badly ▪ That surgeon is a *butcher*! [=a terrible surgeon]

have/take a butcher's *Brit, informal* : to look at something ▪ This may be what we need. *Have a butcher's.*

[2]butcher *verb* **-ers**; **-ered**; **-er•ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to kill (an animal) and prepare its meat for sale ▪ They've hired someone to *butcher* the hogs.

2 : to kill (people or animals) in a brutal and cruel way ▪ Many innocent people were *butchered* under his regime.

3 *informal* : to do (something) very badly : to make a mess of (something) ▪ The band has *butchered* my favorite song.

butch•ery /'bʊʧəri/ *noun* [*noncount*]

1 : the violent and cruel killing of many people ▪ the *butchery* of civilians during the war

2 : the work of a butcher : the job of preparing meat for sale

but•ler /'bʌtlɚ/ *noun, pl* **-lers** [*count*] : the main male servant in the home of a wealthy person

[1]butt /'bʌt/ *noun, pl* **butts** [*count*]

1 *chiefly US, informal + sometimes impolite* : the part of the body you sit on : BUTTOCKS ▪ He slipped and landed on his *butt*. [=(*chiefly Brit*) *bum*] ▪ These exercises will make your *butt* firmer. ▪ Why don't you ***get off your butt*** and do something? [=why don't you stop being so lazy and do something?] — used in informal phrases where *ass* might also be used ▪ Get your *butt* over here! [=come over here now] ▪ She really saved my *butt*. [=she helped me out of a difficult situation] ▪ He worked his *butt* off [=he worked very hard] to finish on time.

2 : the thicker end of a weapon or tool ▪ the *butt* (end) of a rifle

3 a : the end part of a cigarette or cigar that is not smoked ▪ a cigarette *butt* **b** *informal* : a cigarette ▪ She went out to buy some *butts*.

kick butt see [1]KICK

– compare [2]BUTT, [4]BUTT, [6]BUTT

[2]butt *noun, pl* **butts** [*count*] : a person who is treated badly or is made fun of — usually singular; + *of* ▪ As a child, she was a clumsy girl who was the *butt of* everyone's jokes. [=people made jokes about her because she was clumsy] — compare [1]BUTT, [4]BUTT, [6]BUTT

[3]butt *verb* **butts**; **butt•ed**; **butt•ing** : to hit or push (something) forcefully with the head [+ *obj*] A few punches were thrown, and then one boy *butted* the other before a teacher broke up the fight. ▪ She got *butted* by an angry goat. [*no obj*] We saw the goat *butt* against the gate until it opened.

butt heads *chiefly US, informal* : to disagree about how something should be done ▪ They've *butted heads* over the issue a number of times.

butt in [*phrasal verb*] *informal* : to get involved in something (such as a conversation or someone else's activities) especially in a rude way ▪ I realize you're trying to help, but I wish you wouldn't *butt in*. You're only making things worse. ▪ Sorry to *butt in* (on you) like this, but I need to ask you a question.

butt out [*phrasal verb*] *chiefly US, informal* : to stop being involved in something (such as a conversation or someone else's affairs) ▪ This has nothing to do with you! I wish you would just *butt out*! ▪ They told me to *butt out* of the conversation.

– compare [5]BUTT

[4]butt *noun, pl* **butts** [*count*] : a forceful hit or push with the head ▪ a head *butt* in/to the ribs — compare [1]BUTT, [2]BUTT, [6]BUTT

[5]butt *verb* **butts**; **butted**; **butting** *US* : to place something right next to something else or to be right next to something else [+ *obj*] We laid the boards so that the ends were *butted* against the wall. [*no obj*] The floorboards are weakest where they *butt* (against each other). [=where they meet, where the ends of the boards touch each other] ▪ The apartment building *butts* up against an old church. — compare [3]BUTT

[6]butt *noun, pl* **butts** [*count*] *Brit* : WATER BUTT — compare [1]BUTT, [2]BUTT, [4]BUTT

butte /'bju:t/ *noun, pl* **buttes** [*count*] : a type of hill with a flat top and steep sides that is found in the southwestern U.S. — see color picture on page C7

[1]but•ter /'bʌtɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ters**

1 [*noncount*] : a solid yellow substance made from milk or cream that is spread on food or used in cooking ▪ bread and *butter* ▪ Would you like some *butter* for your potato? ▪ Sauté the onions in melted *butter*. — see also BREAD AND BUTTER

2 [*count, noncount*] : a food made from cooked fruit or roasted nuts that have been ground up ▪ apple *butter* — see also PEANUT BUTTER

butter wouldn't melt in someone's mouth *chiefly Brit* — used to say that a person who appears to be innocent, sincere, or kind is really not

like a (hot) knife through butter see [1]KNIFE

[2]butter *verb* **-ters**; **-tered**; **-ter•ing** [+ *obj*] : to spread or put butter on (something) ▪ *butter* a piece of bread ▪ *buttered* toast

butter up [*phrasal verb*] ***butter up (someone) or butter (someone) up*** *informal* : to treat (someone) very well or kindly in order to get something ▪ He's busy *buttering up* potential clients.

know which side your bread is buttered on see [1]BREAD

but•ter•ball /'bʌtɚˌbɑ:l/ *noun, pl* **-balls** [*count*] *US, informal + often impolite* : a person who is somewhat fat ▪ I was a little *butterball* when I was a child.

butter bean *noun, pl* ~ **beans** [*count*]

1 *US* : a kind of small, flat bean : a small lima bean

2 *Brit* : a lima bean that is dried before it is sold

but•ter•cream /'bʌtɚˌkri:m/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a soft mixture of butter and sugar that is used as a filling or frosting for cakes

but•ter•cup /'bʌtɚˌkʌp/ *noun, pl* **-cups** [*count*] : a wild plant that has small yellow flowers that are shaped like cups

but•ter•fat /'bʌtɚˌfæt/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the natural fat of milk from which butter is made

but•ter•fin•gers /'bʌtɚˌfɪŋgɚz/ *noun* [*singular*] *informal* : a person who often drops things ▪ I dropped my pen again. Why am I such a *butterfingers* today?

– **but•ter•fin•gered** /'bʌtɚˌfɪŋgɚd/ *adj* ▪ a *butterfingered* ballplayer

[1]but•ter•fly /'bʌtɚˌflaɪ/ *noun, pl* **-flies**

1 [*count*] : a kind of insect that has a long thin body and brightly colored wings and that flies mostly during the day — see color picture on page C10; compare MOTH

2 [*count*] *often disapproving* : a person who goes to many parties and other social events ▪ a ***social butterfly***

3 [*singular*] : a way of swimming in which the swimmer's face is in the water and the arms move together in a circular motion while the legs kick up and down ▪ swimmers doing the *butterfly*; *also* : a race in which the swimmers do the butterfly ▪ They competed in the *butterfly*.

4 *butterflies* [*plural*] *informal* : a nervous feeling in your stomach ▪ Even experienced musicians sometimes get *butterflies* before a performance. ▪ I have *butterflies* in my stomach.

[2]butterfly *verb* **-flies**; **-flied**; **-fly•ing** [+ *obj*] : to cut (food) into two pieces that are joined along one edge so that it can be spread apart for cooking ▪ *Butterfly* the chicken before roasting. ▪ *butterflied* shrimp

butter knife *noun, pl* ~ **knives** [*count*] : a small knife with a rounded blade that is used especially for spreading butter on bread during a meal

but•ter•milk /'bʌtɚˌmɪlk/ *noun* [*noncount*] : the liquid that is left after butter has been made from milk or cream

but•ter•nut squash /'bʌtɚˌnʌt-/ *noun, pl* ~ **squash** *or* ~ **squashes** [*count, noncount*] : a large vegetable that has a pale, hard shell and yellow or orange flesh — see color picture on page C4

but•ter•scotch /'bʌtɚˌskɑ:ʧ/ *noun* [*noncount*] : a hard candy made by boiling butter, sugar, and water — often used before another noun ▪ a *butterscotch* sauce ▪ *butterscotch* pudding

but•tery /'bʌtəri/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~]

1 : resembling butter ▪ The cheese has a *buttery* flavor. ▪ a smooth, *buttery* texture

2 : containing or covered with butter ▪ *buttery* pastries/popcorn

but•tock /'bʌtək/ *noun, pl* **-tocks** [*count*] : either of the two soft parts of the body that a person sits on ▪ the baby's left/right *buttock* — usually plural ▪ The shirt is long enough to cover your *buttocks*. — see picture at HUMAN

[1]but•ton /'bʌtn̩/ *noun, pl* **-tons** [*count*]

1 : a small, usually round piece of plastic, glass, metal, etc., that is sewn to a piece of clothing and is pushed through a loop or hole to fasten one part of the clothing to another part ▪ a skirt/coat *button* ▪ a dress with *buttons* down the back ▪ I lost a *button* on my jacket. ▪ He took off his tie and undid the top *button* of his shirt. — see color picture on page C5

2 *US* : a small, usually round sign that has a picture or words on the front and a pin on the back ✧ People pin buttons to their clothing to show support for a person or idea. ▪ She was

wearing a *button* that read "Support your local library." ▪ a ***campaign button*** [=a button that shows support for someone's political campaign] — called also (*Brit*) *badge*

3 a : a small part of a machine that you push to make the machine work ▪ the on/off *button* ▪ Will you please push/press the 'play' *button* on the CD player? ▪ With a fax machine, you can send a document across the country with the touch/push of a *button*. **b** : a small area on a computer screen that you click on to make the computer software do something ▪ If the information on the registration form is correct, click the 'OK' *button*. — see also HOT BUTTON

(as) cute as a button *informal* : very cute ▪ Your nephew is *cute as a button*!

on the button *US, informal* **1** : exactly at the specified time ▪ They arrived at noon *on the button*. [=*on the dot, precisely*] **2** : perfectly accurate ▪ Your guess was (right) *on the button*. [=*on the nose*]

push the right buttons *informal* : to do the things that are needed to produce a desired effect or result ▪ The coach knows how to *push all the right buttons* to get his players ready for the game.

push your buttons *informal* : to do or say something just to make you angry or upset ▪ Don't pay any attention to her. She's just trying to *push your buttons*. ▪ Even though they're both adults now, Rita's brother still ***knows how to push her buttons***. [=he is easily able to annoy or frustrate her]

[2]button *verb* **-tons; -toned; -ton·ing**

1 [+ *obj*] : to attach (a button) by passing it through a hole ▪ He rarely *buttons* the top button on his shirt.

2 [+ *obj*] : to close or fasten (something) with buttons ▪ Will you *button* the baby's jacket for her? — often + *up* ▪ Be sure to *button up* your coat before you go outside.

3 [*no obj*] : to have buttons for fastening ▪ The skirt *buttons* on the side.

button it *informal + impolite* — used to tell someone to stop talking ▪ She angrily told him to *button it*.

button your lip/lips *or* ***keep your lip/lips buttoned*** *US, informal* : to not talk about something ▪ *Button your lip*. He's coming toward us. ▪ Don't tell him what I said, please. You know he can't *keep his lips buttoned*.

but·ton–down /ˈbʌtn̩ˌdaʊn/ *adj, always used before a noun*

1 a *of a collar* : having the ends fastened to the shirt with buttons ▪ The shirt has a *button-down* collar. **b** *of a shirt* : having a button-down collar ▪ a *button-down* shirt

2 *or* ***but·toned-down*** /ˈbʌʔn̩dˌdaʊn/ [*more ~; most ~*] *often disapproving* : having a very traditional and formal way of dressing, behaving, etc. ▪ a very *buttoned-down* [=*conservative*] businessman

but·toned–up /ˈbʌtn̩dˈʌp/ *adj* [*more ~; most ~*] : not friendly and open about showing feelings ▪ a *buttoned-up* [=*reserved*] executive

[1]but·ton·hole /ˈbʌtn̩ˌhoʊl/ *noun, pl* **-holes** [*count*]

1 : a hole in clothing through which a button is passed in order to fasten something

2 *Brit* : BOUTONNIERE

[2]buttonhole *verb* **-holes; -holed; -hol·ing** [+ *obj*] *informal* : to force (someone who is going somewhere) to stop and talk to you ▪ I'm sorry I'm late. I was *buttonholed* by a coworker just as I was leaving my office.

button mushroom *noun, pl ~* **-rooms** [*count*] : a small, white mushroom that is often eaten as a vegetable

button nose *noun, pl ~* **noses** [*count*] : a small, rounded nose

[1]but·tress /ˈbʌtrəs/ *noun, pl* **-tress·es** [*count*] : a structure built against a wall in order to support or strengthen it — see also FLYING BUTTRESS

[2]buttress *verb* **-tresses; -tressed; -tress·ing** [+ *obj*] : to support, strengthen, or defend (something) ▪ The treaty will *buttress* the cause of peace. ▪ The theory has been *buttressed* by the results of the experiment.

but·ty /ˈbʌti/ *noun, pl* **-ties** [*count*] *Brit, informal* : a sandwich

bux·om /ˈbʌksəm/ *adj, of a woman* : healthy and attractive with large breasts ▪ a *buxom* blonde

[1]buy /ˈbaɪ/ *verb* **buys; bought** /ˈbɑːt/; **buy·ing**

1 : to get (something) by paying money for it : PURCHASE [+ *obj*] I *bought* a computer. ▪ I *bought* this hat for $10. ▪ He *bought* the quilt from a local artist. ▪ He *bought* dinner for us. = He *bought* us dinner. [*no obj*] Stock prices are low, so now is a good time to *buy*. — opposite SELL

2 [+ *obj*] *of money* : to be able to get something ▪ A quarter won't *buy* (you) much these days. ▪ Money can't *buy* love.

3 [+ *obj*] *informal* : to accept or believe (something) as true ▪ He said it was a mistake, but I don't *buy* it.

4 [+ *obj*] *informal* : to give money to someone in order to get that person to do something illegal or dishonest for you : BRIBE — usually used as *(be) bought* ▪ an honest policeman who can't *be bought* — see also BUY OFF (below)

5 [+ *obj*] : to get (something) by losing or giving up something — usually used as *(be) bought* ▪ Peace *was* finally *bought*, but at the cost of many lives.

buy a pup see PUP

buy in [*phrasal verb*] ***buy in (something)*** *or* ***buy (something) in*** *Brit* : to buy a large amount of (something) ▪ Be sure to *buy in* a lot of tinned food in case we're snowed up.

buy into [*phrasal verb*] ***buy into (something)*** **1** : to pay money in order to own part of (something, such as a company or sports team) ▪ Investors are *buying into* Internet companies. **2** : to accept or believe (something) as true ▪ The book teaches kids not to *buy into* the notion that money brings happiness.

buy it *or US* ***buy the farm*** *informal* : to die ▪ I nearly *bought the farm* when my car skidded off the road.

buy off [*phrasal verb*] ***buy off (someone)*** *or* ***buy (someone) off*** : to give money to (someone) for illegal or dishonest help ▪ Many believe that Jones *bought off* the police so that he would not be investigated for the murder. — see also [1]BUY 4 (above)

buy out [*phrasal verb*] ***buy out (someone)*** *or* ***buy (someone) out*** : to pay money to (someone) for his or her part of a company or team ▪ She *bought out* her partners so that she could manage the company the way she wanted to. — see also BUYOUT

buy time : to get more time for someone or something ▪ The medication won't cure the disease but it will *buy* patients some *time*. [=it will allow patients to live longer]

buy up [*phrasal verb*] ***buy up (something)*** *or* ***buy (something) up*** : to pay money for all or a large part of (something) ▪ The company has *bought up* the old factories along the river and will convert them into apartments. ▪ She is *buying up* all the artist's early work.

[2]buy *noun, pl* **buys** [*count*]

1 — used to describe something that is being sold ▪ The toy is a popular *buy*. [=many people are buying the toy] ▪ The shoes were a great *buy* [=*deal*] at 50 percent off the original price.

2 : an act of buying something ▪ an undercover drug *buy* [=*purchase, deal*]

buy·er /ˈbajɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*]

1 : someone who buys something ▪ The *buyer* and seller must agree on a price for the property. ▪ He's trying to find a *buyer* for the restaurant.

2 : someone whose job is to choose and buy the goods that a store will sell

buyer's market *noun* [*singular*] : a situation in which many things of the same kind are for sale, prices are low, and buyers have an advantage over sellers — opposite SELLER'S MARKET

buying power *noun* [*noncount*] : PURCHASING POWER 1 ▪ Inflation decreases consumer *buying power*. ▪ a multinational corporation with a tremendous amount of *buying power*

buy·out /ˈbaɪˌaʊt/ *noun, pl* **-outs** [*count*] : the act of gaining control of a company by buying the parts of it you do not own ▪ an employee/management *buyout* = a *buyout* by the employees/managers of the company — see also *buy out* at [1]BUY

[1]buzz /ˈbʌz/ *verb* **buzz·es; buzzed; buzz·ing**

1 [*no obj*] **a** : to make the low, continuous sound of a flying insect (such as a bee) ▪ a *buzzing* bee ▪ Flies were *buzzing* around the picnic tables. **b** : to make a low, continuous sound ▪ The doorbell *buzzed* loudly. **c** : to be filled with a low, continuous sound ▪ My ears were still *buzzing* [=*ringing*] hours after the concert.

2 [*no obj*] : to be filled with activity, excitement, etc. ▪ The hall *buzzed* with excitement as the audience waited for the show to start. ▪ My mind is *buzzing* with ideas.

3 a : to send for or signal (someone) by using an electric device (called a buzzer) that produces a loud, low sound [+ *obj*] The nurse *buzzed* the doctor who was on duty. ▪ She *buzzed* her secretary to say she was going out for lunch. [*no obj*] — often + *for* ▪ The nurse *buzzed for* the doctor. **b** [+ *obj*] : to let (someone) go into or out of a place by using an electric device that produces a loud, low sound as it unlocks a door, gate, etc. ▪ Ring the bell when you arrive and someone will *buzz* you into the building. ▪ Let me *buzz* you out.

4 [+ *obj*] *US, informal* : to call (someone) on the telephone ▪ *Buzz* me when you get there.
5 [+ *obj*] : to fly an airplane low over (something or someone) ▪ The plane/pilot *buzzed* the people watching the show.
6 [*no obj*] : to go or move quickly ▪ The host of the party was *buzzing* around the room talking to everyone.
buzz off *informal* — used as a rude or angry way to tell someone to go away ▪ He told me to *buzz off*. ▪ *Buzz off*, will you? I'm busy right now.
– **buzzing** *noun* [*noncount*] ▪ hear the *buzzing* of bees

[2]buzz *noun, pl* **buzzes**
1 [*count*] **a** : the low, continuous sound made by a flying insect (such as a bee) ▪ We heard the *buzz* of the bees as we walked through the garden. **b** : a low, continuous sound ▪ When the machine is turned on, it makes a quiet *buzz*.
2 [*singular*] : a low sound caused by many people talking at the same time ▪ There was a *buzz* of voices in the hall as the audience waited for the show to start.
3 *informal* **a** [*noncount*] : the things that are being said about something ▪ What's the latest *buzz* about their marriage? ▪ The *buzz* is that she turned down the job because the pay was too low. **b** : excited talk about something [*singular*] There's been quite a *buzz* about the new movie. ▪ The team's new players are creating a *buzz* among baseball fans. [*noncount*] There's been a lot of *buzz* about the new movie.
4 [*singular*] *informal* **a** : a feeling of excitement ▪ Kids love the new game, and adults get a *buzz* [=*kick*] out of it too. **b** : a feeling of being somewhat drunk or intoxicated ▪ He had a *buzz* after only two drinks. — see also BUZZED
5 [*singular*] *informal* : a telephone call ▪ ***Give me a buzz*** [=call me] when you get there.

buz·zard /ˈbʌzɚd/ *noun, pl* **-zards** [*count*]
1 *US* : a kind of large bird that eats animals that are already dead
2 *Brit* : a kind of large hawk

buzz cut *noun, pl* ~ **cuts** [*count*] *US* : CREW CUT — see picture at HAIR

buzzed *adj, informal* : slightly drunk or intoxicated ▪ He was *buzzed* after only two drinks.

buzz·er /ˈbʌzɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : an electric device that makes a loud sound ▪ Their team was ahead by two points when the *buzzer* signaled the end of the game.

buzz saw *noun, pl* ~ **saws** [*count*] *US* : CIRCULAR SAW

buzz·word /ˈbʌzˌwɚd/ *noun, pl* **-words** [*count*] : a word or phrase that becomes very popular for a period of time ✧ Buzzwords are often related to a particular business or field of study. ▪ At that time, the new *buzzword* in the tourism industry was "ecotourism."

[1]by /ˈbaɪ, bə/ *prep*
1 : close to or next to (something or someone) : NEAR ▪ She was standing *by* [=*beside*] the window. ▪ His wife was sitting *by* him. ▪ They have a house *by* the lake.
2 a : up to and beyond (something or someone) : PAST ▪ The bus went right *by* him without stopping. **b** : at or to (someone's home) ▪ Some friends stopped/came *by* our house for a chat. ▪ Why don't you come *by* my place later?
3 a — used following a passive verb to indicate the person or thing that does something ▪ The decision was made *by* the company president. [=the company president made the decision] ▪ Coal has been replaced *by* oil. [=oil has replaced coal] ▪ He was killed *by* a falling rock. [=a falling rock killed him] ▪ I was greatly surprised *by* the result. [=the result surprised me greatly] **b** — used to indicate the thing that is used to do something ▪ He opened the door *by* (using) force. [=he used force to open the door] ▪ She succeeded *by* pure determination. **c** — used to indicate an action that is done for a particular purpose ▪ You can reset the machine *by* pressing this button. [=you can press this button to reset the machine] ▪ He began his speech *by* thanking the President and ended it *by* telling a joke.
4 — used to indicate the person who wrote or created something ▪ a play (written) *by* William Shakespeare ▪ This is a portrait of Gaugin (that was painted) *by* Van Gogh.
5 a — used to indicate the method used to go somewhere, send something, etc. ▪ Some people came *by* [=*via*] train while others came *by* car. ▪ He returned *by* [=*on, via*] the last train. ▪ They sent him a message *by* [=*via*] e-mail. ▪ We drove here *by* the back roads. **b** — used to indicate the method used to enter or leave a place ▪ We entered *by* [=*through, via*] the front door.
6 a — used to indicate the name that is used for someone or something ▪ The American writer Samuel L. Clemens was known *by* the name "Mark Twain." ▪ Her full name is Elizabeth but she goes *by* (the nickname) "Lizzie." ▪ The Federal Bureau of Investigation is usually referred to *by* its initials "FBI." **b** — used to indicate how someone is spoken to, identified, etc. ▪ He called her ***by name***. [=he used her name when he spoke to her] ▪ I know her ***by sight*** but not *by name*. [=I know what she looks like but I don't know her name] **c** — used to introduce the name of someone or something important as proof that you are speaking the truth ▪ I swear *by* [=in the name of] all that's sacred that everything I've said is true. — often used in phrases like ***by God*** to add emphasis ▪ He always said he'd retire to Hawaii, and *by God*, he did it! **d** : when using (a specified word or phrase) ▪ What do you mean *by* "acceptable levels?" [=what levels do you consider acceptable?] ▪ She called my theory "interesting," but I don't know what she meant *by* that. [=I don't know whether she was being sincere, polite, etc.] ▪ It's hard to know what the author intended *by* this phrase.
7 — used to indicate the part of something or of a person's body that is held, grasped, etc. ▪ He grasped the shovel *by* the/its handle. [=he grasped the handle of the shovel] ▪ She grabbed him *by* the arm. [=she grabbed his arm] ▪ He held/took his daughter *by* the/her hand. [=he held/took his daughter's hand]
8 a : during the time of (day or night) ▪ New York ***by night*** [=at night, during the night] is very different from New York ***by day***. [=during the day] **b** — used to indicate the kind of light that occurs or is used when something is being looked at, read, etc. ▪ The landscape looked very different when we saw it *by* daylight than it had *by* moonlight. ▪ She was trying to read *by* the light of a single candle.
9 a : not later than (a specified time) : at, in, on, or before (a specified time) ▪ We need to leave *by* noon at the latest. ▪ They should be here *by* tomorrow. ▪ I don't know where she is. She should have been back *by* now. ▪ *By* this time next year she hopes to have a new job. ▪ She's planning to get married next year, *by* which time she hopes to have a new job. **b** : during the time until (a specified time) ▪ *By* 2000 the U.S. had been an independent country for more than 200 years.
10 a : in a way that agrees with or follows (something, such as a rule) ▪ They didn't play *by* the rules. **b** : in a way that is based on (something) ▪ You shouldn't judge other people *by* (their) appearances. **c** : according to (something) ▪ *By* my watch it's nearly noon. [=my watch says that it's nearly noon]
11 a — used to indicate units of measurement or quantity ▪ The eggs are sold *by* the dozen. ▪ She gets paid *by* the hour. ▪ They have been making progress *by* small degrees. **b** — used to indicate the number that multiplies or divides another number ▪ multiply 8 *by* 12 ▪ divide 10 *by* 4 **c** — used to indicate the numbers of a measurement ▪ The room measures 15 feet *by* 20 feet.
12 — used to indicate an amount, length, etc. ▪ The horse won the race *by* a nose. ▪ She's taller than I am *by* several inches. [=she's several inches taller than I am] ▪ The price has been increased *by* five dollars. ▪ This one is better ***by far*** than that one. [=this one is much better than that one]
13 — used to indicate someone's job, origin, character, etc. ▪ She's a lawyer *by* profession. ▪ He's French *by* birth, although he has lived in America for many years. ▪ I'm an optimist *by* nature. [=it is my nature to be optimistic]
14 a — used in phrases to describe the speed at which something happens or changes ▪ The work is getting done ***bit by bit***. [=the work is getting done gradually in small amounts] ▪ He's getting better ***little by little***. ▪ His health is growing worse ***day by day***. = His health is growing worse ***by the day***. [=his health is growing worse every day] ▪ The situation is getting more dangerous ***by the second/minute/hour***. **b** — used in phrases to describe how a series of people or things proceed or are dealt with ▪ They entered the room ***two by two***. [=*two at a time*] [=two of them entered the room, then two more entered the room, etc.] ▪ I solved the problems ***one by one***. [=I solved the first problem, then the second one, etc.]
15 *informal* : in the opinion of (someone) ▪ Whatever you want to do is ***fine/okay by me***. [=I am willing to agree to whatever you want to do]
16 *somewhat formal* **a** : on behalf of (someone) ▪ He always did right *by* his children. [=he always did the right things to help his children] **b** — used to indicate the husband or wife who is the parent of someone's child ▪ He had two daughters *by* his first wife and a son *by* his second wife. [=his first wife was the mother of his two daughters and his second wife was the mother of his son] ▪ She has two children *by* her first husband.

by the by *or* ***by the bye*** *old-fashioned* — used to introduce a statement that provides added information or that mentions another subject ▪ I recently met his wife who, *by the by* [=*by the way, incidentally*], is a well-known author.

by yourself : without others : ALONE ▪ He sat (all) *by himself*, reading the newspaper. ▪ The new law will help, but it can't solve the problem (all) *by itself*. ▪ You shouldn't lift that heavy box (all) *by yourself*. Let me help you.

[2]by /ˈbaɪ/ *adv*

1 : [4]PAST ▪ The bus went right *by* without stopping. ▪ We stood and applauded as the parade went/passed *by*. ▪ The last few years have ***gone by*** [=have passed] so quickly.

2 — used with *put* to describe something that is being kept or saved for a future use ▪ You should be *putting* some money *by* [=*aside*] for your old age. [=you should be saving some money for your old age]

3 : at or to someone's home ▪ Some friends stopped/came *by* for a chat. [=some friends came by our house for a chat] ▪ Why don't you come *by* later?

4 : close or near ▪ He did it when nobody was *by*. [=(more commonly) *around*] ▪ She lives ***close by***. [=*nearby*]

by and by *literary* + *old-fashioned* : before too long : EVENTUALLY ▪ I feel sure that we'll succeed *by and by*. [=*ultimately, in the end*]

by and large **1** : in a general way : in general ▪ *By and large* [=*generally, for the most part*], I like the way things have gone. **2** : in most cases : in general ▪ *By and large* [=*generally, usually*] it takes a month for the shipment to arrive.

[1]bye /ˈbaɪ/ *interj, informal* : [1]GOODBYE ▪ *Bye*. I'll see you tomorrow. — often + *now* ▪ "See you later." "OK. *Bye now*."

[2]bye *noun, pl* **byes** [*count*] *sports* : a situation in which a player or team is allowed to go forward to the next level in a competition without having to play against and defeat an opponent ▪ She got a *bye* into the second round of the tennis tournament.

bye–bye /ˈbaɪˌbaɪ/ *interj, informal* : [1]GOODBYE ▪ *Bye-bye*! See you later! — often used by children or when speaking to children ▪ Say/Wave *bye-bye*, darling: it's time to go home.

go bye-bye *informal* **1** *or Brit* ***go bye-byes*** : to go to bed — used when speaking to children ▪ It's time to *go bye-bye*, darling: it's way past your bedtime! **2** *US* : to go away — used in imitation of children's speech ▪ When the company went bankrupt, investors watched their money *go bye-bye*.

by–elec·tion /ˈbajəˌlɛkʃən/ *noun, pl* **-tions** [*count*] *Brit* : a special election that is held between regular elections to replace someone who has died or resigned from office

by·gone /ˈbaɪˌgɑːn/ *adj, always used before a noun* : gone by : from a time in the past ▪ the *bygone* days of our ancestors ▪ The stone wall is from a *bygone* age/era.

by·gones /ˈbaɪˌgɑːnz/ *noun*

let bygones be bygones : to forgive someone for something done to you or for a disagreement with you and forget about it ▪ I know we've had our fights over the years, but I think it's time we *let bygones be bygones*.

by·law /ˈbaɪˌlɑː/ *noun, pl* **-laws** [*count*]

1 *US* : a rule that an organization (such as a club or company) makes and that its members must follow

2 : a law or regulation that is made by a local government and that applies only to the local area

by·line /ˈbaɪˌlaɪn/ *noun, pl* **-lines** [*count*] : a line at the beginning of a newspaper or magazine article that gives the writer's name

[1]by·pass /ˈbaɪˌpæs, *Brit* ˈbaɪˌpɑːs/ *noun, pl* **-pass·es** [*count*]

1 : a road that goes around a blocked or very crowded area ▪ The bridge is being rebuilt so we'll have to take the *bypass*.

2 *medical* : a procedure done to allow blood to flow past a blocked blood vessel to reach the heart ▪ heart *bypass* surgery ▪ a double/triple/quadruple *bypass* [=a procedure done when two/three/four blood vessels are blocked]

[2]bypass *verb* **-passes**; **-passed**; **-pass·ing** [+ *obj*]

1 : to go around or avoid (a place or area) ▪ To *bypass* the city, take the highway that circles it. ▪ Is there a way to *bypass* the bridge construction?

2 : to avoid or ignore (someone or something) especially to get something done quicker ▪ He *bypassed* the manager and talked directly to the owner. ▪ She managed to *bypass* the usual paperwork.

by–prod·uct /ˈbaɪˌprɑːdəkt/ *noun, pl* **-ucts** [*count*]

1 : something that is produced during the production or destruction of something else — often + *of* ▪ The chemical is a *by-product of* the oil-refining process. ▪ Carbon monoxide is a *by-product of* burning fuel.

2 : something that happens as a result of something else — often + *of* ▪ The loss of jobs was an unfortunate *by-product of* the industry's switch to new technology.

by·stand·er /ˈbaɪˌstændɚ/ *noun, pl* **-ers** [*count*] : a person who is standing near but not taking part in what is happening ▪ Two innocent *bystanders* were injured in the shooting.

byte /ˈbaɪt/ *noun, pl* **bytes** [*count*] : a unit of computer information that is equal to eight bits — see also GIGABYTE, KILOBYTE, MEGABYTE

by·way /ˈbaɪˌweɪ/ *noun, pl* **-ways**

1 [*count*] : a road that is not used very much ▪ I prefer to take *byways* to town. ▪ He's traveled ***the highways and byways*** of this country.

2 ***byways*** [*plural*] : the parts of a subject that are not commonly known ▪ the *byways* of the art world ▪ The book chronicles some of the interesting *byways* of legal history.

by·word /ˈbaɪˌwɚd/ *noun, pl* **-words** [*count*] : someone or something that is closely connected with a particular quality — usually singular; usually + *for* ▪ The new luxury hotel is fast becoming a *byword for* hospitality. ▪ Her name has become a *byword for* wit.

byz·an·tine /ˈbɪzənˌtiːn, *Brit* baɪˈzænˌtaɪn/ *adj* [*more* ~; *most* ~] *formal* + *disapproving* : very complicated, secret, and hard to understand ▪ The company's *byzantine* accounting practices have gotten it into trouble with the government.

C

c *or* **C** /ˈsiː/ *noun, pl* **c's** *or* **cs** *or* **C's** *or* **Cs**

1 : the third letter of the English alphabet [*count*] The word "access" is spelled with two *c*s. [*noncount*] Many English words begin with *c*.

2 [*count*] : the Roman numeral that means 100 ▪ CCV [=205]

3 : a musical note or key referred to by the letter C : the first tone of a C-major scale [*count*] play/sing a *C* [*noncount*] a song in the key of *C*

4 [*count*] : a grade that is given to a student for doing average work ▪ She got a *C* on the exam. ▪ He's a ***C student***. [=a student who gets C's for his schoolwork]

5 — used to refer to the third of three or more people, places, or things that are being considered ▪ If A, B, and *C* divide the coins equally, how many does each person get?

c. *abbr* **1** *also* ***ca.*** circa — used to indicate that a date is not exact ▪ *c.* 1600 = *ca.* 1600 [=approximately in 1600] **2** *US* cup ▪ 2 *c.* flour

C *abbr* **1** Celsius **2** centigrade **3** copyright

CA *abbr* California

cab /ˈkæb/ *noun, pl* **cabs** [*count*]

1 : [1]TAXI ▪ Do you want to catch/get a *cab*? [=to get a taxi to stop and give you a ride]

2 : the part of a truck, tractor, etc., in which the driver sits

ca·bal /kəˈbɑːl, *Brit* kəˈbæl/ *noun, pl* **-bals** [*count*] *formal* + *disapproving* : a small group of people who work together secretly ▪ a *cabal* plotting to overthrow the government

ca·bana /kəˈbænə, *Brit* ˈkəˈbɑːnə/ *noun, pl* **-ban·as** [*count*] : a small, simple building that has a roof and usually walls and is often used by people at a beach or swimming pool

cab·a·ret /ˌkæbəˈreɪ/ *noun, pl* **-rets**

1 [*count*] : a restaurant where you can buy alcohol and see a musical show

2 [*count, noncount*] : entertainment provided at a such a restaurant — often used before another noun ▪ a *cabaret* act/singer